

Confident Love

Philippians 4:1-3

The Call

The Conflict

The Counselor

To live above with the saints we love,
Oh, that will be glory.
But to live below with the saints we know,
Well, that's another story.

Hughes, R. K. (2007). [*Philippians: the fellowship of the gospel*](#) (p. 164). Crossway Books.

Call

Philippians 4:1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown,

Bothers (adelphos): fellow believer male or female

Whom I love (agapētos): object of one's affection

1 Peter 4:8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

Long for (epithētos): long for, deeply desire (only found here and in 1:8)

Philippians 1:8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

My joy and crown

Philippians 1:4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy,

Philippians 2:16 holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

Philippians 1:27–28 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the

gospel, ²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.

He tells us to stand, and the implication of that command is that God has already done or is doing the conquering. We are only to hold the ground he conquers.

Boice, J. M. (2000). [*Philippians: an expositional commentary*](#) (p. 227). Baker Books.

Ephesians 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Philippians 3:16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

Defensive vs. offensive

Conflict

Philippians 4:2 I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord.

Not a theological issue. The issue was most likely one of personal preference.

There are no personal preferences on clear doctrinal issues in Scriptures. On these issues there can only be obedience. Secondary issue of which full knowledge is given to us we to hold them loosely. We are not to make them a primary issue.

Hebrews 12:15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

John 17:20–23 “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Proverbs 6:16–19 There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: ¹⁷ haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, ¹⁹ a false witness who breathes out lies, and *one who sows discord among brothers*.

Romans 16:17 I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them.

Entreat (parakaleō): to ask for earnestly, urge, implore

Agree in the Lord

All Christian unity is grounded in Jesus Christ

Philippians 2:2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Philippians 2:3–8 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:14–15 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

Counselor

Philippians 4:3 Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Companion (syzygos): yoked together; paired together

Christ yokes us together

Help (syllambanō): join in helping

Luke 5:7 They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

As members of God's house, we cannot stand aloof from the struggles of our brothers and sisters in the faith whether they are physical or spiritual struggles.

Have labored side by side (synathelō): struggle together

Philippians 1:27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are

standing firm in one spirit, with *one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,*

Whose names are written in the book of life.

When personal preferences become a stumbling block to people the issue moves from the realm of personal to doctrinal. It moves to the realm of doctrinal because being at peace is clear teaching of Scripture

Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Hebrews 12:14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Romans 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Being at peace means you move towards someone not away from them.

Colossians 3:14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

When we strive after peace, others can be confident of our love for them, and we can be confident of their love for us.