

Agreeing in the Lord

Philippians 4:2-3

Theme: Christians are to avoid disunity among themselves by agreeing with each other in the Lord.

A Plea for Agreement in the Lord (4:2)

4:1 is a transition between 3:17-21
and 4:2-9.

In 4:2 Paul *pleads* with Euodia and
Syntyche to *agree in the Lord*.

Plead means
beg, beseech, appeal to.

Agree in the Lord
literally means
think the same things in the Lord. Cf.
2:2&5-8.

It means to be Christ-like in your
thinking.

We are not told the nature of the disagreement but it threatened unity in the Philippian fellowship.

Paul's argument was:

you belong to the Lord and are to be like Him;

when you are like Him you will have His mind;

like Him, you will not insist on your own way or rights, you will be humble and obedient, you will embrace the role of a servant; this will be reflected in your mutual relations and you will be reconciled.

The women were being encouraged to obey 2:1-4; 3:13b-14 and to be mature, *cf.* 3:15a.

Do you need to agree in the Lord with someone?

Do you need the mind of Christ in the matter to apply the mind of Christ to the matter?

A Request to Facilitate Agreement in the Lord (4:3a)

After appealing to Euodia and Syntyche, Paul addresses a *loyal yokefellow*.

His or her identity is not known.

Paul asks him or her to *help* these women work through their issues.

Help carries a strong sense of physical action.

It can mean *seize, grasp, catch, apprehend*. Cf. Mark 14:48; Acts 12:3; Luke 5:7-9.

Paul was asking that strong action be taken to bring reconciliation.

Threats of division within a fellowship must be firmly dealt with.

A Reason for Facilitating Agreement in the Lord (4:3b-d)

Paul explains why efforts must be made to bring about reconciliation, *cf.* 4:3 (NLT).

The women had contended at Paul's side in the cause of Gospel.

They were prominent members of the Philippian Church.

All Christians must work at resolving personal differences.

This must take place particularly in case of prominent Christians in a church.

If prominent Christians are divided it is a bad example from those who should set a good example.

*Pray that if strong action is required
for the sake of reconciliation and unity,
that action will be taken.*

Paul appeals to the essential unity of
those he has mentioned (4:3d); all
have their names written in the book
of life.

Conclusion— A Close Walk with the Lord

Christians have different temperaments, personalities, likes, dislikes, ideas.

To guard against division Christians are to walk closely with God and have the mind of Christ.

*Let us do all that we can to have the
mind of Christ so that even in
disagreement we will be able to agree
in the Lord.*