

# Life Group Study Guide

November 15, 2020

Philippians 4:2-9

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**2** I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. **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.

**4** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. **5** Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; **6** do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**8** Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. **9** What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Paul directly addresses the conflict between two members of the Philippian church. Whatever the dispute was about, **Euodia and Syntyche** had forgotten that they have a greater common ground in Jesus Christ. They forgot that everything else was less important than that common ground.

1. What are the ramifications of forgetting our common ground and getting caught up in conflict?

2. Euodia and Syntyche had labored side by side with Paul in the Gospel. How can devoted followers of Christ, who are a part of the same fellowship, get caught up in interpersonal conflict?

3. Based on **vv.2-3** what are Paul's priorities for these women and the Philippian church as a whole?

- Are these still a priority of the church today? Why or Why not?

4. In **vv.2-9** Paul gives us virtues that, if obeyed, will help us to become a more stable follower of Christ. List the virtues below.

V.2 \_\_\_\_\_

V.4 \_\_\_\_\_

V.5 \_\_\_\_\_

V.6 \_\_\_\_\_

V.8 \_\_\_\_\_

V.9 \_\_\_\_\_

5. “Rejoice in the Lord always”. This is a verse most of us know, but often find difficult to live out. Consider who we “rejoice in always” and share practical ways to do that?

6. What difference would it make in our lives and the lives of those around us if we did what v.4 says?

7. “*Fools give full vent to their rage, but the wise bring calm in the end.*” Proverbs 29:11. How we relate to others doesn’t only affect them. We too are affected by our lack of gentleness. How does a lack of gentleness contribute to spiritual instability?

8. The action step to combating anxiety is a prayer life that consists of thankfulness and “letting your request be made known to God”. The outcome of prayer is a peace that guards our hearts and minds. How does prayer lead us to peace?

- How does peace serve as a guard?

9. V.8 gives us a clear filter for our thought life! This is not a passive process, it is an intentional application of these criteria to our life constantly. What are some things that we may not put through this filtering process?

- How does allowing ourselves to think about these unfiltered things lead to spiritual instability?

10. What are the things Paul both modeled and commanded for the Philippians?

- What did Paul promise the outcome of practicing these things would be?

**Personal Reflection:** Do you find your spiritual life stable or unstable? Which of these virtues do you need to improve upon?