

Theme: Paul urges believers to walk in community so that they can stand for the Gospel in the face of opposition.

I. Intro – Sin & Breakdown of Community

- A. First sin – disrupts relationship between Adam & Eve
- B. Next sin mentioned – Cain and Abel
- C. Our history – keep moving West to avoid conflict
- D. Sadly, church often full of division
- E. Yet we can not run away from differences
- F. Why not just avoid community? Too much hassle!

II. Standing Firm in the Lord (v1)

- A. Note Paul's terms of endearment (v1)
 - 1. Brothers, loved, longed for, dear friends
 - 2. Paul loves these people!!
 - 3. My joy & crown (v1; 1Th 2:19-20; 2 Ti 4:8)
 - 4. Paul is proud of these people!!
- B. Stand firm in the Lord (v1; 1:27); issues
 - 1. Therefore, that is how, stand firm (v1; 1:27)
 - 2. Justification, sanctification, glorification
 - 3. Humility, joy

- 4. Person, work and example of Christ
- 5. Examples of Paul, Timothy, Epaphroditus

III. The Plea for Unity and Community

- A. The plea for Euodia and Syntyche (v2)
 - 1. Equal and urgent plea – takes no sides
 - 2. Euodia – pleasant way; Syntyche – fortunate one
 - 3. Had contended with Paul for Gospel (v3)
 - 4. Women of prominence in church (not elders); Acts 16
 - 5. Now in conflict – nature unknown; not essentials
- B. The plea – be of the same mind (v2)
 - 1. Agree with each other - τὸ αὐτὸ φρονεῖν - 2:2
 - 2. Unity in 1:27 – one Spirit, one soul contending
 - 3. They had done it w/ Paul – now w/ each other!
- C. The request to true yokefellow (v3); book of life
 - 1. True yokefellow/companion – help them (v3)
 - 2. Luke? (Acts 16-20; true usually Paul's coworkers)
 - 3. Don't know – but help them unite!
 - 4. Book of life – united in destiny, so unite now

D. The importance of working together (4x in v3)

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1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

1. συν- words – 4x in v3 alone!
2. At stake – cause of Gospel (1:27; 4:3)
3. Especially in face of hostility!

IV. Applying the Word – Living in Community

A. Are we walking in unity with other believers?

1. This is a consistent call in Philippians
2. Do I have any relationships that are not of one mind?
3. Am I willing to reconcile?

B. Do we see the absolute need for community?

1. This is Paul's consistent cry for believers
2. This is what God blesses – Psalm 133
3. This is mandatory for standing for Gospel
4. Don't give in to culture of isolation
5. Don't give in to technological "alternatives"
6. Commit to Christ & His people in local church

The Call to Live in Community

Philippians 4:1-3

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19 For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? 20 Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day-- and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:8

Justification, Sanctification, Glorification

Humility and Joy

Person, work and example of Christ

Example of Paul, Timothy, and Epaphroditus