

Live the Journey

Living with Peace

Participant Guide

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.

Context

At this point, Paul is beginning to wrap-up the letter to the Philippians. He starts by asking the letter carrier to help two of his dear friends to reconcile after a severe disagreement. After all, they worked side by side with Paul in favor of the gospel, and this certainly matters more than whatever was the cause of their dispute. It seems that Paul clearly understands that churches were under a lot of pressure from both the hostile Roman empire and the graceless judaizers of the time. He neither condemns their attitude nor focuses on their problem, instead he seems to take the opportunity to give the community a series of practical advices on how they can embody the joy and hope of future resurrection in their day-to-day lives.

1. In light of the extenuating circumstances in that church, what is the first recommendation that Paul has for them (vs. 4-5)? How can that be of help to us?

2. In verses 6-7 he addresses their anxieties. Fear of persecution was probably one of the main causes of anxiety in that church. How can our own culture be a source of fear to us? What do these verses teach us about the nature of anxiety? How can we get rid of it?

3. In verse 8, Paul has recommendations on how we are to occupy our minds. What do we learn here? Why is this so important?

4. Finally, he calls the church to practice what they have learned from him. What do you think that is? According to him, what happens to whoever follows in these steps?

Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, revel in him! Make it as clear as you can to all you meet that you're on their side, working with them and not against them

Paul to the Philippians (Eugene Peterson, translator)

If you have no joy in your religion, there's a leak in your Christianity somewhere.

Billy Sunday

Anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, but only empties today of its strength.

Charles Spurgeon

