

3. What can we “do” to struggle well?
(Philippians 2:3-4)

Table Talk

- 1) What four possessions does the believer have for struggling well? (v. 1) Of these, which do you know best? Which is hardest to understand? How do each of these possessions enable us to struggle well in this life?
- 2) How does Paul express that he might be caring more for the spiritual progress of the Philippian believers than they are caring for it? How does seeing the commands of scripture as an expression of caring change one’s outlook on those commands? Where have you seen the idea expressed that “if you love me, you will agree with me”? How is that idea flawed? What are some ways that the Christian community can grow beyond that mindset? (v. 2a)
- 3) How does Paul tie the unity of the body of Christ in the mission of the church to our struggling well? In what ways are you presently engaged in the unified mission of the church? What role do our affections play in struggling well? How can our affection for the unified mission of the church grow? (v. 2b)
- 4) What is Paul’s answer in verse 3 to the question, “What can we do to struggle well?” Why is the answer, “do nothing” so surprising? How does Paul get to the core of our motivations in verses 3-4? What are some examples of selfish ambition and conceit? What are some examples of counting others as having more significance than ourselves? What are some examples of not looking only to our own interests? What are some examples of also looking to the interests of others who are different from us? How do these “do nothing” expressions help us in marriage and family life? How do they help us in getting along with others in the world? How do they help us in working with others in the body of Christ?