



SERMON NOTES

Sunday, January 23, 2022 | Pastor Scott Boerckel

“Struggling Well: In Everyday Difficulties”

Philippians 4:1-7

1. Struggling well means that we stand firm in who we are and whose we are. (Philippians 4:1)
2. Struggling well means that we think rightly about everyday conflicts. (Philippians 4:2-3)

3. Follow four commands so that you can struggle well. (Philippians 4:4-7)

Table Talk

- 1) What descriptions does Paul give to encourage the Philippians in who they are? (v. 1) Which description stands out to you? Why is our identity as believers in Christ so important to struggling well? What does the phrase “in the Lord” mean? How does being “in the Lord” enable struggling well? What practical ways have you discovered to “stand firm thus”?
- 2) While we don’t know the precise disagreement between Euodia and Syntyche, what possibilities do you imagine? (v. 2) How had these women been engaged in ministry? (vv. 2-3) How is Paul’s specific identification of these women an expression of love and concern? In urging them to “think the same in the Lord” (“agree in the Lord”), how is Paul asking them to recall other places in this letter on a similar theme? (see 2:2,5; 3:15,19; 4:2) What disagreement that you have comes to mind as you read this passage? What is God calling you to do about that disagreement?
- 3) What is Paul asking the “true companion” to do? What kind of help can believers give to other believers who are in conflict? Why is that hard? What can we do as a fellowship to create easier pathways for people to help others in conflict? How does Paul reveal that Christian ministry is a group effort? (v. 3)
- 4) What four commands does Paul give in vv. 4-6? Which of these four is most difficult for you? Which is the most difficult to understand? Do you think that there is a reason for the ordering of these commands? How is the command not to be anxious about anything made easier if we first rejoice in the Lord always and seek to make our reasonableness apparent?
- 5) What is the “peace of God”? (v. 7) Why does Paul describe the peace of God as surpassing all understanding? How does the guarding of our hearts and minds by God’s peace enable us to struggle well?