

I. Stand - Phil. 4:1

1. "Therefore" -
 - points backwards and forward
 - back to the church's hope and forward to the Second Coming
 2. Paul expresses his heart for fellow believers
 - where is this heart in today's local church? We are not very "connected" to people even though we need one another and we have all the necessary "devices"
 - there is a huge loneliness in our culture
 3. They are his:
 - crown
 - joy
 - longed for
 - dear friends
 4. His admonition - "stand firm" in the Lord
 - under assault
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Relationships are building blocks for churches
 - its not just the "fellowship" -anyone can have a Baptist "fellowship"
 - do we let others in our "circle?"
 2. Its hard to "get into" a Baptist church - so many have decided not even to try
 - couple that with "turf shepherds" and you have a fortress to get into
 - this is the reason that new churches, and new SS classes grow - the old ones are completely locked down to "outside interference"

II. Unite - Philippians 4:2-3

1. Addresses Euodia and Syntyche - who have a dispute (**verse 2**)
 - he "pleads" that they unite and be "of the same mind" in the Lord
 2. He asks others to help them get along (**verse 3**)
 - a peacemaker's work
 3. Their past history - they have (before) labored at my side for the "cause" of the gospel
 - random thought... we seem to be able to be more unified over the American Cancer Society than the cause of Christ - is there a reason?
 4. Implies that their dispute affects the other "co-workers"
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Discuss - church splits and how they happen and why they hurt the work of the gospel
 2. The problems of disunity are huge and debilitating for the local church
 3. Which is worse for the church? Covid or splits

III. Pray - Philippians 4:4-7

1. He exhorts them to rejoice (**verse 4**)
 - you might discuss the difference between having joy and rejoicing
 - twice told to rejoice - he insists on it

- Rea -“in the Lord”
- Rea 2. Note: - in the Lord
 -stand firm in the Lord
 -labor together in the Lord
 -rejoice in the Lord
3. Good point of our writer
 -look around and you become discouraged - look around
 -look within and you too become discouraged - look within
 -look to Him - look up
4. Joys is a doorway into prayer
 -rejoicing is an active verb
- Rea 5. You can rejoice before your burden lifts... you can find something to rejoice about - in Jesus
6. Be gentle to all (**verse 5**)
 -gentle and considerate
- Rea -in our past being considerate was taught as part of our manners toward others
7. Why treat others well - the Lord is near
- Rea -not so much near as in Second Coming as in “near” to your presence right now - because the subject of the Return of Jesus is not on the table... at the moment
8. Don’t be anxious about anything (**verses 6-7**)
 A. Pray about everything
- Rea B. A way to see these verses...
 -don’t do this - be anxious
 -do do this - pray about everything
 -or instead of being anxious be prayerful
- C. What type prayer - with thanksgiving
 -always presenting your requests to God
- Rea -the attitude of the requests
- D. Compare Jesus’ words about anxiety in Matthew 6:25-31
9. Here’s what will happen - the peace of God will keep your hearts (**verse 7**)
 -keep guard over your hearts
 -a peace that transcends all understanding
- Rea -once again “in Christ Jesus”
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. God understands your anxieties
2. He will help us work with our worries
3. Are there reasons to be worried? - always
 -does he help - always
4. Most don’t pray much
 -the practice of prayer (habitual) will change your entire life

IV. Dwell - Philippians 4:8-9

1. Six virtues to think about (**verse 8**)
- Rea -in context, this might be understood ...instead of worrying think about these things - fill your mind with this instead of worries

- Rea -the Bible takes a very real and helpful view of the “mind” - it can be occupied with these virtues or your worries (and confusion and fear)
2. True - reliable, or valid
 -anxiety results from false ideas
- Rea -Scripture is so true that it often hurts
3. Noble - worthy of respect
 -majestic thoughts
- Rea -the nobility of our military personnel - rather die than not help their fellow-warriors
- Rea -the nobility of Joseph as he turned down Potiphar’s wife
4. Right - upright
 -right and fair to all
- Rea -even the lost have a sense of right and wrong
- Rea -example - it is just “wrong” to steal for another
5. Pure - chaste
 -as opposed to 95% of tv
- Rea -the purity of a young couple who saves sexual relations until marriage
- Rea -as simple as “pure” water
6. Lovely - attractive and pleasing
 -beautiful (in character)
- Rea -a worker who will not take from his employer no matter how small the infraction
- Rea -some can be depended on to have the highest values and live the noblest lifestyle
7. Admirable - what gets people’s admiration and praise
 -so live that others will “admire” your lifestyle - and respect it
- Rea -it often takes a lifetime to build a reputation for living a beautiful life
- Rea -someone who’d rather lose their job as lie
8. Now Paul adds two conditional clauses:
 -if there is anything excellent or praiseworthy think about these things
- Rea -once again, even the lost world appreciates some things - feeding the hungry, taking care of the downtrodden, etc.
9. Whatever you have learned and received from me - practice (**verse 9**)
 -he uses his own lifestyle as a model for them
- Rea -can you do that? - more likely we tell our kids do what we say, not what we do
- Rea -there is a huge need for a concrete model, or example in our living... we often flounder, not knowing how to “do” it
10. If you do these things the God of peace would be with them
- Rea -note at this point that this entire passage is about “peace”
 -with them to guard their hearts and minds
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. One of the reasons that many don’t confess their “worries” is they are afraid someone will condemn them for being less than “super-Christian”
2. A great exercise for this lesson is to define the virtues in verse 8 - these ideas are not front and center in our minds... we often don’t use these words - we often don’t carry in our minds these concepts... therefore we don’t think about them. Therefore, define well the above virtues. Character and virtues and principles and moral living are not front and center in our choices of movies to watch. Even the cartoons and Disney

movies have long since left these great reservoirs of blessing. WE are the light of the world - these “light” virtues can come from us - and SHOULD come from us.

SS Lesson - 10-3-21 - Jerry Batson