

RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS WITHIN A LOCAL CHURCH

(Philippians 4:1-3)

I. CONFLICT IN THE LOCAL CHURCH (4:1-3)

A. The apostle had some positive thoughts about the Philippians (4:1)

1. These Macedonian saints are referred to as “*beloved*” (*agapetos*), or _____ beloved; it is obvious that the apostle had a great emotional _____ for them. (4:1a)
2. The apostle likened these believers to a “_____,” and this particular word was used of a _____ garland or wreath placed upon the head of the champion of the athletic games. (4:1c)
3. Paul commanded his brethren to “*stand firm*,” and the location of this firm position was to be “_____.” (4:1d)

B. The church in Philippi had some inter-personal relationship problems (4:2-3)

1. The verb “*implore*” (*parakaleo*) used twice is a strong word, and it means to _____, to _____ or even to _____. (4:2a)
2. This imploring was pointedly directed at two women in the assembly (*Euodia* and *Syntyche*), they were both to be of the _____ mind _____ the Lord. (4:2b)

3. This was no abrupt, out of place request, the two of them had been _____ warned throughout the letter thus far regarding _____. (Philip. 1:27; 2:1-4, 5-8, 20-22; 3:15-16)
4. These two saints were out of fellowship with _____ because of differences, and thus they were out of fellowship with the _____. (Col. 3:12-17)
5. Paul also addressed an unnamed associate, a “*true companion*” to rise up and _____ in the conflict that was going on between these two women. (4:3a)
- a. The command to “*help*” these women implies that the restoration process had _____ in trying to lay aside their personal differences.
- b. It requires a great deal of _____, tact, _____ and gentleness to deal with people like Euodia and Syntyche. (1 Cor. 1:10-11; 3:1-4; 11:18; Gal. 6:1-2; 3 John 1:9-11)
6. The mentioning of “*Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers*” is more than likely parenthetical, as Paul did not want to _____ so many _____ who had participated in preaching the Gospel of grace. (4:3b)

* How can you personally avoid the spirit of divisiveness in your own thinking?