

The Necessity of Unity

Philippians 4:1-3



Relational **equity** affords one the **right** to speak.

Philippians 4:1 (NIV84) "Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, **that** is how you should **stand firm** in the Lord, dear friends!"

1. The church was **family** to him. ("...my brothers")
2. The church was **loved** by him. ("...you whom I love & long for")
3. The church was **validation** for him. ("...my joy and crown")

Philemon 1:8-9a (NIV84) "...although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do,⁹ yet I appeal to you on the basis of love."

Relational **disunity** dictates the **time** to speak.

Philippians 4:2-3 (NIV84) "I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord.³ Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life."

1. **Harmony** requires **humility**.

Philippians 2:1-4 (NIV84) "If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

2. **Resolution** involves **community**.
3. **Disunity** risks **eternities**.

John 17:20-23 (NIV84) "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one:²³ I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

Digging Deeper: What is the difference between having the **right** to speak (relational equity) and choosing the **right time** to speak (relational unity)? Describe a time when someone with no relational equity in your life tried to tell you what to do. Can you tell of a time when someone you trusted told you something you didn't want to hear but needed to hear? -How do you feel about that person now? All that is known about the two women we read about today is that they were at odds with each other. If the Bible were still being written, and the people who know you best were to write a sentence down that describes who you are, what would it say?