

## Series – Joy in Christ, a study of Philippians

### Joy in Unity

Philippians 4:1-9

#### Disunity destroys

**Review** – Joy in Christlikeness

He is coming again – final reckoning

**Therefore** – since in is coming, Stay True and keep the Unity

Notice the love of Paul for the Philippians

Love you, long to see you, friends

Joy and Crown (award of athlete not kingly crown)

#### I. Stay True to each other

##### A. Controversy is possible between faithful believers

1. What we know about them

They worked hard to spread the gospel

They worked well with others

They are true believers – names in book

2. What we do not know or need to know

What the dispute was about – not important

##### B. How to overcome controversy

1. Don't take sides or spread the controversy

2. Take steps to bring reconciliation

Pray and Encourage them to speak to each other

#### II. Stay true to the Lord

##### A. Rejoice in the Lord

This is a command not a suggestion

The joy of the Lord is our strength *Nehemiah 8:10 ... Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the LORD is your strength!*

It shows our faith in Christ *John 15:11 I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!*

Our actions – gentle consideration – broadcast our faith

Faith that the Lord is coming

##### B. Be Anxious for nothing - also a command

Worry never changes anything but it does steal our joy

Jesus taught on worry **Matthew 6:25-34**

##### C. Pray about everything

Prayer – talk to God

Supplication – tell Him your specific needs

God is waiting to hear so He can assure you of His love

#### D. Be thankful for anything

Not everything is good, but God can use all things for good

*And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. Romans 8:28*

Thankfulness is the sign of trusting God

**Result** – We will experience the peace of God

Peace will guard our hearts and minds **John 14:27**

#### III. Stay True to yourself

##### A. Attach your mind to the positive

True – true to the Word of God

Honorable -worthy of respect, noble

Right – Upright, just or righteous

Pure – holy, free from stain of sin

Lovely – pleasing, agreeable

Admirable – commendable, praiseworthy

##### B. Activate your thinking to be positive

Excellent – Moral excellence or virtue

Worthy of praise – worthy of approval, recognition

##### C. Align your actions to positive

What you have learned, heard, saw

**Result** – We will experience the God of Peace

He will be our constant companion

The Psalmist experienced such peace and joy

*Psalm 28:7 The LORD is my strength and shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.*

#### Questions we need to ask ourselves

What is robbing me of joy?

1. **Is there a controversy** I have with someone in this congregation that I need to resolve? If so do it quickly – today before you leave.

2. **Does Worry control my mind or peace?**

Begin to give it all to the Lord with thanksgiving

3. **Is my mind controlled by the evil of this world?**

Begin to focus on all the positive God provides

4. **Do my actions line up with my words?**

Ask forgiveness and strength from the Lord

*Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! Philippians 4:4*