

Philippians: Fellowship of the Gospel

Study 16: Signs of a healthy church

READ Philippians 4:1-5 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

Main Point: In this passage Paul deals with disputes in the church. He provides five character traits that we all need to have in order for the church to function well and be effective. These are (1) an affectionate spirit, (2) a steadfast spirit, (3) a peacemaking spirit, (4) a rejoicing spirit, and (5) a gracious spirit.

1. Discuss the love and spirit Paul has towards the church from 4:1 and share how you might be able to exemplify the same. How does such an attitude contribute to church unity and cohesiveness?
2. Paul commands the church to “stand firm in the Lord” (v. 1). What does this mean? See 1:27.
3. What was Paul’s solution to the dispute between Euodia and Syntyche?

4. Why is division in the body of Christ so dangerous and what does division display to outsiders? See 2:14-16.
5. Who were these women and what do we know about them from vv. 2-3? How does this information act as a warning to anyone who would say “I would never cause church division?”
6. Why are challenging and “awkward conversations” sometimes necessary to have with others?
7. In v. 4 Paul commands twice for the church to rejoice. How do we develop a rejoicing spirit and what impact would living with such a spirit have within the body of Christ?
8. How does knowing “the Lord is at hand” (v. 5) help us to act with all “reasonableness” toward others in the church?
Note: “Reasonableness” can be translated “gentleness” or “graciousness”. It has the idea of showing “gentle forbearance toward others”.