



THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE GOSPEL

PHILIPPIANS 4:1-3

Value of Harmony

Small Group Study Guide

The main theme of this passage, Philippians 4:1-3, is a call for harmony in the ***Fellowship of the Gospel***, that is, within the church. The word harmony means to be of the same mind. To have harmony is therefore to have peace and unity. To have harmony is to all be on the same team pressing on for the same goal. To have harmony will require surrendering personal agendas and self interests so that the greater good of the whole is accomplished.

1. One very visible characteristic of this passage is that Paul uses a number of descriptive terms for the ***Fellowship of the Gospel***. What is the meaning and significance of each term?
 - Beloved:
 - Brethren:
 - My joy:
 - My crown:
 - Fellow workers:
 - Names in book of life:
2. Which three of the above descriptive terms encourages you most as a believer in Christ the Lord? Why are these terms encouraging to you?
3. If we see each other as beloved brethren, our joy and crown, and fellow workers whose names are in the book of life - how will this lead to greater harmony, unity and peace within the church?
4. If harmony means to “be of the same mind,” does this mean that Christians are never to disagree with one another but to always come to the same agreement and conclusions? Explain your answer.

Don't Forget:

Discuss the Sermon Notes from this week

5. When you read through the entire letter to the Philippians, it becomes obvious that unity and harmony in the ***Fellowship of the Gospel*** is a central concern of Paul's. Why is it critical to have a "sameness of mind" amongst individual members in the church family?
6. Disunity and division in the church can negatively impact the spiritual growth and maturity of other believers in the church.
 - What are some specific harmful effects that disunity and division can cause in the spiritual health and growth of other believers in the church?
 - How does harmony create an environment for fostering greater spiritual health and maturity in the church?
7. Disunity and division in the church can negatively impact the witness of the church to those on the outside.
 - What are some specific ways that division and disunity hinders the church's evangelistic efforts?
 - How does harmony create greater opportunities for sharing Christ and proclaiming the excellencies of Him who has called you out of sin into the Kingdom of Christ Jesus?
8. Disunity and division in the church can also bring disrepute to the name of Jesus Christ - Lord of the church.
 - What are some specific ways that division and disunity in the church can bring disrepute to the name of Christ Jesus?
 - How does harmony bring glory and fame to the name and reputation of Christ Jesus?
9. Paul makes it clear that all members of the church are to be actively participating in the ***Fellowship of the Gospel*** to ensure harmony and unity exists among individual members. What are some practical steps you can take to squelch division and nurture "sameness of mind" among individual members of the church?

For Next Week:
Prayerfully meditate and study the following: Philippians 4:4-7