

Philippians: Jesus' Perspective in a ME World| Philippians 4: 1-7

- 1. THINK:** What is the difference between two people agreeing and two people believing in the Lord? What does 'in the Lord' have to do with it? **DO:** Talk through an example or two of how you have experience agreement in something with someone but how it looked much different when you agreed in the Lord. **DO:** Talk through and even make a list of what is required of someone when they agree in the Lord. What has to take place in the two parties' hearts for agreement in the Lord?
- 2. THINK:** Paul charges the leaders of the church to 'help these women'. What can you glean from the text today that will help these ladies agree in the Lord? If you were the recipient of this instruction (and you are).....**DO:** what steps can be taken to help Euodia and Syntyche agree? What would you employ, how would you go about it?
- 3. THINK:** Why does Paul throw in 'whose names are in the book of life'? What is motivating about that for us? What does that phrase add to his charge for reconciliation and what perspective does it give us about Christ? **DO:** What is going on in your life where your name being written in the book of life adds a nuance of motivation? What should you do or not do based upon your name being written in the book of life?
- 4. THINK:** Paul, after the charge to the leaders to help two women, uses rejoicing, reasonableness, always praying, supplication and thanksgiving as components of the help. When it comes to reconciliation of two parties, how do these all fit? **DO:** Form a plan of your own to help Euodia and Syntyche, using the components Paul has provided. Where would you begin? What is your biggest priority to appeal to these two women?
- 5. THINK:** We heard that the Gospel dwarfs everything else we have views about. Explain that. What does that really mean? **DO:** Find a current situation in the small group and use the Gospel to provide what is needed in that situation. What does man think about the situation? How does the Gospel dwarf that and why does the Gospel supercede all that we think about?

6. **THINK:** Why reasonableness? Paul could have said 'Let your humility, grace, love, affection, wisdom, or any variety of character traits' be made known to everyone. But, instead, he chooses reasonableness? Why do you think that is? What is the core of Christian reasonableness? **DO:** Discuss several situations in our culture today where the world needs to see our reasonableness and not our disagreement; our reasonableness instead of our disgust? Where do you think your family or neighbors could use seeing your reasonableness?

7. **THINK:** Why are we to be anxious about anything? Really, nothing? There is no place for anxiety in the Christian life? Really? Why is that? At its core, what does anxiety communicate to others? What does it communicate to God? What does it accuse God of and assume of the anxious believer? **DO:** Make a list of all the situations in your life that you feel give you reason or anxiety? Go ahead. Write them down. Now, apply truth to each of those situations. Ask yourself what you believe about God in those situations, then what does the Scriptures tell you to believe about God in those situations?