

## PHILIPPIANS Lesson 42

### Chapter 4, verse 1-2: Expressing Love for the Brethren, Public Rebuke in the Church

13 February 2023

Chapter 4 begins with the word “**Therefore,**” which reflects back on all that Paul has said up to this point.

**Chapter 1:** Mutual love between believers.

**Chapter 2:** A Christlike spirit and way of thinking that directs you to love others as much as or more than your own self.

**Chapter 3:** Press toward the mark of becoming like Jesus Christ, especially in His self-sacrificial love for others.

Paul’s opening words in chapter 4 are an honest outpouring of genuine love and affection toward the believers at Philippi.

- Paul is a great illustration of how God can change a person who is yielded completely to the working of the Holy Spirit in their life.
  - Instead of killing and persecuting Christians, now he is wholly devoted to them with true Christian love. They are “**dearly beloved and longed for.**” Paul earnestly wanted to be with these believers with great desire. Christian fellowship was what he truly longed for.
  - Contrast that with “Christians” who only go to church when it’s convenient.
- “**My joy and crown.**” A crown is a reward. Paul’s reward for all his labor is that these people are saved, following Jesus, and demonstrating true love for one another.
- “**Stand fast in the Lord.**” There are many voices, many influences that will try and move you and lead you astray. Remember what you were taught, and don’t move from that position.
- “**I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.**”  
Suddenly the tone of Paul’s letter goes from positive and uplifting to negative and accusatory.
  - Any discomfort or displeasure these two men may have felt by being singled out publicly is much better than the discomfort and shame they would have experienced at the Judgment Seat of Christ if they had not been corrected.
    - We ought to be grateful when the brethren try to help us get back on track for the glory of God. Christians need to have a heart that says, “*I want to help the brethren do their best for Jesus so they will shine at the judgment Seat.*”
- “**That they be of the same mind in the Lord**” Their sin was that they were not following the example of Jesus Christ.
  - They did not have love for one another. They refused to reconcile for the sake of the Lord.
  - Jesus denied Himself, putting others first. The first 3 chapters of this book emphasized the Lord’s example and encourages believers to do likewise.
    - In the middle of a letter telling us what we OUGHT to be, these two men are held forth as the NEGATIVE example of what NOT to be.
    - The Lord wants us to be an example of right, good, and proper Christians.
      - We must make sure that if an example is to be made of that which is wrong, evil, and improper, we are not the ones providing that example.