

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Unity in the Church*Joy Made Complete* | Philippians 4:2-3**REVIEW**

Paul wrote Philippians for the sake of unifying the church in the enjoyment and advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Unity in the gospel births communal joy that results in the advance of the gospel to the lost. As we partner together in the gospel, the result is **joy made complete**.

In 3:20-4:1, Paul reminds the Philippians this world as it currently exists is not their (and our) ultimate home. We await our Savior, who will transform our bodies and all of creation to it's intended perfection. Because of this heavenly hope, we stand firm until that day comes.

APPLY // PHILIPPIANS 3:20-4:1

Consider practical ways to apply the text of Scripture. Think about implications at the individual and corporate level remembering God's word shapes our beliefs and our behaviors.

1. Read Philippians 3:12-4:1.
2. In verses 20-21, Paul reminds us of our heavenly citizenship. Do you consider heaven to be your home? What in this world hinders you from doing so? How might your daily life change if you were actively looking forward to heaven?
3. The text says "we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." Why is it important to wait for Jesus and not just his benefits? Discuss tangible and practical ways we can wait for our Savior.
4. The end of verse 21 speaks to transformed bodies and "all things" being subject to Jesus. In other words, heaven is about the transformation of all things. Read Romans 8:18-25 and Revelation 22:1-8. What about these ideas excites you about our heavenly home?
5. How does regularly thinking about heaven help us in our discipling and counseling of others?
6. Paul's conclusion in 4:1 is to "stand firm." How does the hope of heaven help us stand firm in the day-to-day? What does it look like to stand firm? What roles does Restoration Church as a whole have in helping us stand firm in the Lord?

STUDY // PHILIPPIANS 4:2-3

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Philippians 4:1-9. (Focus on verses 2-3 this week).
2. In 4:1, what is Paul's attitude toward the Philippian church? How does this inform his instruction in the following verses?

3. What appears to be the issue Paul is addressing in verses 2-3? How does this connect to the overall message of Philippians?
 4. Notice Paul calls these ladies to not just agree, but “agree in the Lord.” What does that phrase “in the Lord” tell us about the nature of reconciliation in view here?
 5. How strongly does Paul feel about Euodia and Syntyche reconciling? What in the text reveals Paul’s strong feelings? Why do you think Paul has such strong feelings?
 6. The “true companion” is likely a leader in the Philippian church. Whoever it is, Paul is appealing to another person to help, and to the Philippian church as a whole by putting this in the letter. Why do you think Paul address, not only the ladies who are in conflict, but also leadership and the church body?
 7. In the later part of verse 3, Paul brings up gospel partnerships. How might this inform the reconciliation that he desires for the Philippians?
 8. In the later part of verse 3, Paul brings up “names in the book of life.” What does this mean? How does it inform reconciliation?
 9. As followers of Christ, how concerned should we be about conflict between brothers and sisters in our church?
 10. Spend time praising God for our church unity and pleading for the Spirit to give us the grace to remain united in the Lord.
11. General Bible study questions:
- a. What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - b. What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - c. How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - d. How should I respond with my affections and my actions?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Do you regularly hope in heaven and help others do the same?