

“When Christians Don't Act Like Christ”

Phil. 4:1-3

Introduction

- I. Would it surprise you to learn that sometimes Christians have issues between each other?
- II. It has been said, “Where is light there will be bugs. Where there are dogs there will be fleas. Where there are humans, there will be misunderstandings and differences of opinion” (Acts 15:36-40).
- III. In Philippi, there were two sisters in Christ that were not seeing eye to eye (Phil. 4:2)

Discussion

- I. Early in the letter to the Philippian brethren, Paul expressed the importance of being united (Phil. 1:27; 2:2).
- II. On the outset, Paul tried to be loving to all of the brethren in Philippi (Phil. 4:1).
 - A. It has been recorded that “before he commanded he commended.
 - B. We should use tact and reason when addressing problems in the church.
 - C. Letting brethren know that you love them goes a long way in reconciling problems.
- III. The issue(s) must be confronted and handled (Phil. 4:2).
 - A. It is interesting that Syntyche means “pleasant” and Euodia means “sweet fragrance”.
 - B. Unfortunately, these ladies were not good representations of their names.
 - C. Sweeping problems under the rug is never the answer.
 - D. When Christians have discord between themselves, there should be strong encouragement to reconcile.
 - E. We cannot allow our personal connections to sway us from handling things aright.
 1. This issue was now of a public nature.
 2. Paul, even at the risk of their embarrassment, called them out for their problem.
 3. Their issue is still known to this very day.
 - F. Paul tried to stay “neutral” in regard to these sisters.
- IV. For reconciliation to occur, Christians are reminded how to handle such situations (Matt. 18:15-17; cf. Matt. 5:23-24).
 - A. An unwillingness to do such hurts not only the parties involved, but the whole congregation (1 Cor. 1:13).
 - B. The strife between Christians can lead some people away from the church (John 17:21).
- V. We must remember that God wants the church to be at peace with one another (Mark 9:50; Psm. 133:1).
 - A. Syntyche and Euodia were reminded that they were both “in the Lord”.
 - B. That relationship should have supplied ample motivation to resolve their issue.

Conclusion

- I. Sometimes Christians will have disagreement and differences of opinion.
- II. At no point should the disagreement or differences cause brethren to stop acting Christ like.