



WHAT WAS THE PROBLEM IN PHILIPPI?

Wayne's Weekly Words After three chapters of praises for the church, Paul finally gets to the problem about which he was writing.

Philippians 4:2 (NKJV)
I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

Two members of the church were in a fight with each other. I could note that it was two women but it could just as easily been two men, or one of each. This problem could not continue. The members of the church had to all be of the same mind. So Paul gave instructions:

Philippians 4:3 (NKJV)
And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.

The late Dr. Harry Ironside wrote,
 In Philippians 4:2, without further delay and with perfect frankness, the apostle spoke directly to the two offenders against unity (whom he had in mind from the beginning of the letter). There is no sternness, no lording it over their consciences; instead there is pleading. As though Christ Himself were beseeching, Paul entreated Euodias and Syntyche. They had been earnest laborers in the gospel, but they had quarreled, so Paul exhorted them to "be of the same mind in the Lord

H.A. Ironside Expository Commentary.

The situation in Philippi was not unique. It is a situation that exists in all churches at one time or another.

What has this to do with us? Guadalupe Community Church is not in the best of circumstances today. Attendance is down and

thus the giving is also down. We need to strive together to seek solutions to our present situation.

The first, and best, way to start in on this process is prayer: both individual prayer and corporate prayer. Then we need to work at "being of the same mind."

We don't know what the problem was at Philippi. It is not certain that even Paul knew of the specifics. He had only heard of the disagreement between members. I don't think we will know exactly what the problem is or what the solution is without two things.

First, we need to pray. We all need to pray. We need to pray at home, we need to pray together at church.

Second, we need someone to help out. Paul "urged" someone to help solve the problem. In Philippi, it was Epaphroditus who was called on to work at solving the problem.

Philippians 2:25 (NKJV)
Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need;

I don't know of a specific individual here that, like Epaphroditus, who has a solution to our problem. I suspect it is not a problem that can be solved by an individual, it must be the work of all the members, working together.

Paul urged them,

Philippians 2:14-16 (NKJV)
Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Please pray!!!