

# Memory Verse

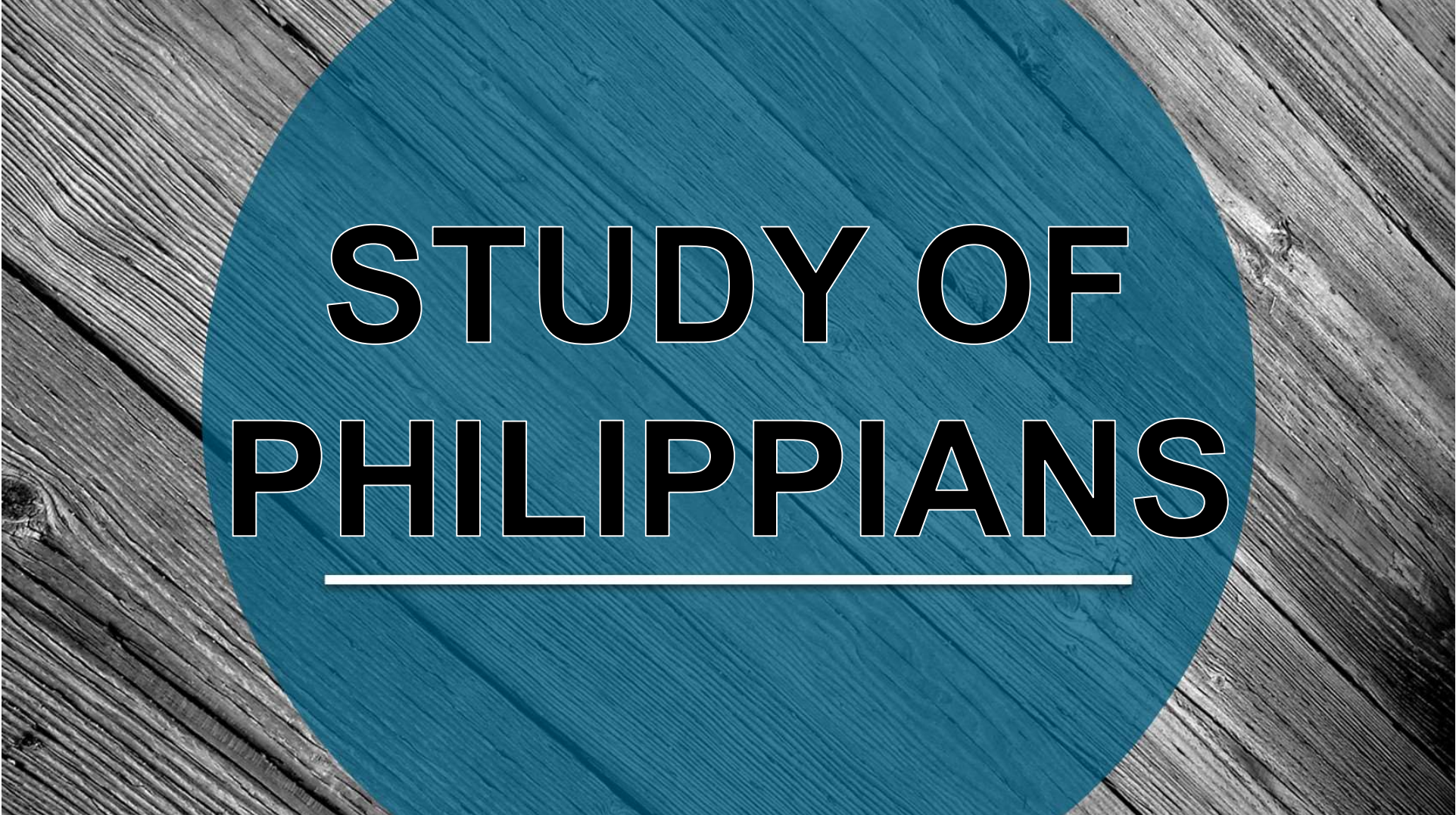
## Philippians 4:3

Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women,  
who have labored side by side with me in the gospel  
together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers,  
whose names are in the book of life.

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**STUDY OF  
PHILIPPIANS**

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# PHILIPPIANS

## Part 18

### Resolving Conflicts – Why and How?

Philippians 4:2-3



## **We have learned...**

- Paul founded this assembly: 49AD and wrote from Roman house arrest: 62AD
- He addressed many topics like love, the gospel, unity, Person of Jesus and others
- He warned them of a group who said Gentiles had to follow the Law
- He spoke faith in Christ, and also about running the race and reminds them of their resurrection and to stand firm.



## Philippians 4:2-3

I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.



## *Resolving Conflicts - How and Why?*

Another word for this is *reconciliation*... These 2 verses begin the *final exhortation portion* of Paul's letter. It is also part of the application section we began last time.

In light of everything he has taught them, they were to do some things.



## A. 4:2 – Agree in the Lord

Paul uses the word translated "*entreat*" 2 times. This can also be *translated*, "encourage, exhort, invite, beseech or appeal." It gives the idea of *asking or requesting and not commanding*, though Paul could have commanded this as an Apostle in this case. Rather, he appeals to 2 ladies: Euodia and Syntyche.



## A. 4:2 – Agree in the Lord

This was not a doctrinal issue, but probably a personal issue, though a serious one. In a soft way, Paul calls out these women to deal with the situation. The one who brought the letter, Epaphroditus, would have *read this publicly*. As he read this, these 2 ladies would *hear it and Lord willing*, be convicted to reconcile with each other.



## A. 4:2 – Agree in the Lord

*Agree in 4:2 and be of one mind in 2:2 are related phrases with similar meanings. To agree is to be of the same mind, or to think in the same way.*

This does **not** mean they, nor we, lose our individuality and become robots, all *thinking and acting the same way*, but that the *body of Christ* was and is to be *united around the core truths*.

Paul does **not** tell these 2 ladies to *agree about whatever it is they disagreed about*.



## A. 4:2 – Agree in the Lord

A probable meaning is, in part, what he has *shared in this letter* about who Jesus is, what He came to do, the present Christian life with Christ, looking forward to the return of Christ and our new bodies. It probably *revolves around the gospel* - the virgin birth, perfect life, atoning sacrificial death, burial and physical resurrection of Jesus and by God's grace through faith in Him alone we receive salvation as a gift from God.



## B. 4:3 – Help Others

Paul *asks, requests or beseeches* someone to help them. The *ESV* translates two words as "*true companion*." This can also be translated as *true yokefellow*, and some think it is a name: *loyal Syzygus*. I don't think it is a name, but an *encouraging term for someone...* The word "help" here means, "to take hold together with one, to assist, help." Paul asks this man to assist these 2 women to agree in the Lord.



## B. 4:3 – Help Others

Paul *could not be there in person* to do this, so he called on someone, probably an elder or deacon to help them with this situation. This was a *specific request* to this person to get involved. Sometimes *reconciliation* requires a **third party**. Paul expresses his care for these 2 women, and gives part of the reason he *wants them to reconcile*.



## B. 4:3 – Help Others

*They labored together with him in the gospel...*  
This "*laboring together*" is the image of *struggling or striving together, or cooperating vigorously together*. It seems the root has to do with *wrestling*. This is Olympic wrestling.  
This word "*labor*" is only used 2 times in the NT, both in Philippians: 1:27 and 4:3. Paul is communicating something **specific** to *this group of believers*.



## B. 4:3 – Help Others

He *mentions Clement*. Some say this is *Clement of Rome*, but that is unlikely. You can do more study on that. Paul mentions others who were his *fellow workers*. This is similar to the word used for "*true companion*" but is plural.



## B. 4:3 – Help Others

*Ephesians 4:12.*

Ministry is **not** something *leaders alone do*, but *something we all do!* There are different ways, different gifts and different places where we *serve the Lord and others*, but we are **all** to be involved in sharing Christ, reaching out to others, loving people and proclaiming the truth. *We partner together with the Lord to do the ministry He has gifted us to fulfill.*



## B. 4:3 – Help Others

Paul writes that these individual's names were written in the *Book of Life*. In Jewish thought and theology, their belief was that *God had books, or scrolls*. There were different books, and one was called the *Book of Life*. In first century Roman culture, *cities or towns* had a scroll, listing the names of the inhabitants of that city. It was like a *roll book a teacher has*.



## B. 4:3 – Help Others

*Exodus 32:31-33.* This is just after the worship of the golden calf and **3000 men** were put to death as a penalty for this (32:25-29). *Moses prays* to the Lord: “So Moses returned to the LORD and said, “Alas, this people has sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold. But now, if you will forgive their sin - but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written.” But the LORD said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book.”



## B. 4:3 – Help Others

While the phrase is not used, most point to this as the first reference. The text says those who sinned against God by worshipping idols would be blotted out. You can also read *Psalms 69:28*.

In the New Testament, this phrase is used in *Philippians 4:3*, but mostly in *Revelation: 3:5, 13:8, 17:8, 20:12, 15, 21:27*.



## B. 4:3 – Help Others

*Revelation 20:12, 15* - And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the **book of life**. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done... (15) And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.



## C. Resolving Conflicts – Why and How?

### 1. Admit the Problem

*The first step to reconciliation is admission.*

Disagreements don't necessarily have to be a bad thing. They could be bad, but in any healthy relationship, there are going to be differences.

*Look at them as **opportunities to mature!** Your perspective about conflict has a lot to do with how it is resolved or not. Sometimes the best thing to do is to **let it go!***



## C. Resolving Conflicts – Why and How?

### 2. Resolve to Obey Scripture

*Each person must put him/herself under the authority of God's word!* If this is not done, then excuses can or will be given, blame can be done, hurt feelings will not be dealt with and emotions will rule rather than depending on the Lord. In the text, Paul instructed these ladies to agree in the Lord. He gave them direction, which is *God's word to obey.*



## C. Resolving Conflicts – Why and How?

### 2. Resolve to Obey Scripture

*If you offend someone - go to them: Matthew 5:23-24* - So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.  
- Though He was offering the Kingdom to the Jews, *this principle is helpful in resolving conflict.*



## C. Resolving Conflicts – Why and How?

### 2. Resolve to Obey Scripture

*If someone offends you - go to them: Matthew 18:15-17*

- “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.



## C. Resolving Conflicts – Why and How?

### 2. Resolve to Obey Scripture

Most problems must be dealt with privately, and others dealt with publicly. But, *public problems should first be dealt with privately*. There is a time to publicly rebuke: *1 Timothy 5:19-20* - Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.



## C. Resolving Conflicts – Why and How?

### 3. Listen and Watch Your Emotions

*James 1:19-20* - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. – **Listening** is one of the most important things we can do in a conflict. It makes us realize we need to look at the situation objectively. Listening enables you to hear the other persons view and bring clarity to the situation.



## C. Resolving Conflicts – Why and How?

### 3. Listen and Watch Your Emotions

There are 3 main emotions to be careful of:

**Fortify**, **Fight**, or **Flight**.

**Fortify** - *defensiveness* – trying to justify your position.

**Fight** - *anger* – focusing **only** on what was done to you.

**Flight** - *cowardice* – running away, or ignoring the problem.



## C. Resolving Conflicts – Why and How?

### 4. Own up to Your Part in the Conflict

There are often a variety of reasons for conflict. After admitting the problem and listening to the other person's point of view, confess your part in the conflict, even if it is 0.0001% and ask forgiveness.



## C. Resolving Conflicts – Why and How?

### 5. When to Call for Help

Sometimes 2 people or groups can't agree. This is when you call a *third party*. We see this in the text. This is where Godly counsel comes in, a pastor, Godly friend, relative or professional counselor. Also, if you are called to mediate and help resolve conflict, be wise. Galatians 6:1.

*The goal is restoration of a person, not disintegration of a person!*



## C. Resolving Conflicts – Why and How?

### 6. Agree in the Lord

There may be personality differences, preferences in singing, style, outreach techniques or how seats are arranged, etc. While it is fine to have ones preferences, they must be submitted to God's word, and the people must agree in the Lord. As the text says, there are things we will not agree on, but as Christians, we do our best to agree in the Lord!



## C. Resolving Conflicts – Why and How?

### 7. Questions about Conflict

1. Is reconciliation always *preferable*? \_\_\_\_\_. Is reconciliation always *possible*? \_\_\_\_\_.

*Romans 12:18* - If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. – Sometimes you can't resolve the issue, and you have to separate from others.



## C. Resolving Conflicts – Why and How?

### 7. Questions about Conflict

2. What about forgiveness? We should always be willing to offer forgiveness and *give the problem to God*. *Unforgiveness hurts the one who does not forgive*. Reconciliation takes 2 and yes, *repentance is involved*. God offers forgiveness, but **it cannot be received until repentance takes place**.



## C. Resolving Conflicts – Why and How?

### 7. Questions about Conflict

3. Do I have to reconcile with non-believers?

The same principles apply, though unbelievers won't have the same worldview a Christian has.

If you offended anyone, own it and ask forgiveness. Sometimes the person will be amazed, and God may use that to open their heart to Christ. Other times it won't change anything. Wisdom is always needed...



# Prayer

**“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Philippians 4:6**

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