

Promote Clarity for the Sake of the Gospel

Philippians 4:4–9 | Sermon Guide

REVIEW: HANDLING DISAGREEMENTS

- Practice charity for the sake of the Gospel. (v. 1)
- Pursue unity for the sake of the Gospel. (vv. 2–3)
- A peacemaker helps provide an objective perspective, points people back to unity in Christ, and seeks resolution.

THIS WEEK

Promote clarity for the sake of the Gospel. (vv. 4–9)

The counsel of a peacemaker calls believers toward right thinking, right praying, and right living.

THE COUNSEL OF A PEACEMAKER

1. Encourage Right Thinking — Philippians 4:4–5, 8

- Rejoice in the Lord _____
- Let your reasonableness / gracious forbearance be known to _____
- Remember: “The Lord is _____

Think about what is: true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise.

Clarity begins when our minds are governed by what honors God rather than by fear, rumor, or distorted thinking.

2. Encourage Right Praying — Philippians 4:6–7

- Do not be anxious about _____
- In everything, bring your requests to God by prayer and _____
- Pray with _____

God’s promise: His peace, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

ANXIETY: WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE HEART?

What tends to trigger your anxiety? _____

Jerry Bridges’ insight: anxiety may reveal not only distrust in God, but an unwillingness to submit to and cheerfully accept God’s agenda for our lives.

Anxiety can reveal...

- A failure to trust God
- A failure to embrace His agenda

Faith responds by...

- Bringing every concern to God
- Giving thanks
- Trusting His providence

From Anxiety to the Peace of God

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JESUS ON ANXIETY — MATTHEW 6:25–34

- Do not be anxious about your life.
- Your heavenly Father feeds the birds—and you are of more value than they.
- Anxiety cannot add a single hour to your life.
- Your heavenly Father knows what you need.
- Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.
- Do not be anxious about tomorrow; today has enough trouble of its own.

CAST YOUR CARES ON HIM — 1 PETER 5:7

“Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”

Why anxiety is spiritually serious: it can function as distrust of God’s care and as resistance to His providence—the truth that God is orchestrating circumstances for His glory and the good of His people.

GOD IS IN CONTROL.

STRUGGLING FAITH IS NOT THE SAME AS STUBBORN UNBELIEF

Mark 9:24: “I believe; help my unbelief!”

The goal is not pretending that faith is effortless. We bring weak and faltering faith to God and seek His help rather than settling into unbelief.

3. Encourage Right Living — Philippians 4:9

- What you have learned, received, heard, and seen— _____
- The promised result: the God of peace will be _____

Biblical clarity is not merely something we understand; it is something we practice.

THE PEACEMAKER’S COUNSEL

Right Thinking	Rejoice, be gracious, and dwell on what is true and excellent.
Right Praying	Replace anxious rumination with prayer, supplication, and thanksgiving.
Right Living	Practice what you have learned, received, heard, and seen.
Result	The peace of God guards us, and the God of peace is with us.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

- What anxious thought do I need to turn into a specific prayer?

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- What truth about God do I need to deliberately think about this week?

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- Where do I need to accept God’s agenda rather than demand my own?

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- What one thing from Philippians 4:4–9 will I practice this week?
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