



So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.
Acts 9:31, New Living Translation

Prayer that Guards Our Peace

Philippians 4:1-17

Can you think of a time when you were called out for doing something wrong?

Now imagine that—not in a classroom, but in a church. That’s exactly what happens in Philippians 4. Paul calls out two women—not for scandal, but for conflict that was disrupting the peace of the church.

Peace is that important, isn’t it? And along with prayer, peace is a defining mark of a powerful church.

Today we’re looking at these two—prayer and peace—because they belong together more than we think.

I would like to offer three observations relevant for our church this morning.

A church that prays is most often a church at peace.

¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer... Acts 1:14a

- When decisions can divide us, prayer keeps us at peace!

- When misunderstandings arise, prayer brings us together!
- When anxiety spreads, prayer steadies us!
- When differences surface, prayer preserves our unity!
- When ministry gets busy, prayer keeps us centered!

Prayer doesn't remove every problem—but it removes the panic, the pride, and the pressure that divide us!

We each have a part to play in the peace and unity of the church!

Notice what Paul does next—he doesn't analyze the conflict... he leads the church to prayer.

A church that values peace chooses people over preferences.

Here's what we know about these two women, Euodia and Syntyche:

- They were most likely leaders in the Philippian church, as Paul refers to them as laboring side by side with him in the Gospel.
- Their conflict was public and serious, as he calls them out in a letter that was read to the entire church!
- It was probably a personal conflict, not doctrinal, as there is no correction of wrong doctrine.
- In other words, it was likely due to difference preferences.

A church that values prayer participates in prayer.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

This is most often interpreted personally, i.e. “this is what you do when anxious,” but that is not what is going on here! The entire church is being addressed! In other words, this is corporate prayer!

We must become more than people who are part of a praying church—we must be people who pray!

I was called out in fourth grade because I marked a wall. Paul called out these women for building a wall that threatened the peace of the church. Today, we're not being called out, we're being called up in prayer. Seize the opportunity to pray with others—in one of our scheduled times of prayer, after-service prayers, and prayers on your mission field! Just say it: "Can we pray about this right now?"