

## How To Reduce Conflict!

April 23, 2023

Pastor Jerry Harris

*...Make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. (Philippians 2:2) NLT*

*Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. (Philippians 1:27) NLT*

*Then he goes on to say this: Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News. Don't be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself. For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of it. (Philippians 1:27 – 30) NLT*

*A kingdom divided by civil war will collapse. Similarly, a family splintered*

*by feuding will fall apart. (Mark 3:24, 25) NLT*

We usually react to conflict one of five ways:

- 1. My way**
- 2. No way**
- 3. Your way**
- 4. Halfway**
- 5. Our way**

In chapter 2 Paul gives four practical steps to reduce conflict and be joyful no matter what:

### **Step #1 – Work together!**

*Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. (Philippians 2:2) NLT*

*Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? (Philippians 2:1) NLT*

*God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of*

*God. (Matthew 5:9) NLT*

*So, if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God. (Matthew 5:23, 24) NLT*

*Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:4) NIV*

*A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. (Proverbs 15:1) NKJV*

*Watch the way you talk. Let nothing foul or dirty come out of your mouth. Say only what helps, each word a gift. (Ephesians 4:29) The Message*

*If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (Romans 12:18) NIV*

*For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:19) NLT*

**Step #2 – Give respect!**

*Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. (Philippians 2:3) NLT*

*Pride leads to conflict... (Proverbs 13:10) NLT*

*Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. (Philippians 2:3c) NLT*

*If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you. God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. (James 4:11, 12) NLT*

**Step #3 – Be considerate!**

*Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. (Philippians 2:4) NLT*

*You husbands must be careful of your wives, being thoughtful of their needs and honoring them as the weaker sex. Remember that you and your wife are partners in receiving God's blessings, and if you don't treat her as you should, your prayers will not get ready answers. (1 Peter 3:7) TLB*

**Step #4 - Develop Christlikeness!**

*You must have the same attitude that*

*Christ Jesus had. (Philippians 2:5) NLT*

*Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. (Philippians 2:6) NLT*

*Instead, He gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. (Philippians 2:7) NLT*

*...He humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. (Philippians 2:8) NLT*

**NOTES**

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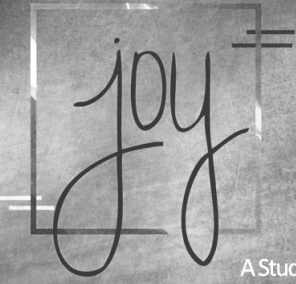
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A Study of Philippians

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