

HOW TO DEAL WITH TROUBLE IN THE CHURCH
PHIL 4:2-3

Introduction:

- A. Sometimes we avoid or gloss over Scriptures that touch on sensitive truths.
 - 1. We are willing to preach about Hell.
 - 2. We can speak about the second coming.

- B. Paul interrupts his exhortations to deal with a very sensitive problem in the church at Philippi.
 - 1. Two women in the church were having a problem.
 - 2. Paul knew such a problem would disturb and hinder.
It is a fact that:

I. THE CHURCH AT PHILIPPI HAD A PROBLEM. V2

- A. "I exhort Euodia and I exhort Syntyche, to make up your differences as Christians should."
 - 1. We do not know the nature of their problem.
 - 2. It was not doctrinal, Paul would have settled it.
 - 3. It was not moral, Paul would have spoken of it.
 - 4. It was something personal, between these two.
 - 5. It was a problem, only as they made it one.

- B. They were both good women, workers for the Lord.
 - 1. "help those women who labored with me in the gospel"
 - 2. When Paul first came, they labored with him.
 - a. Acts 16:13 "And on the Sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women that resorted thither."

- C. Many churches owe their existence to the women and not the men.
 - 1. If the wife quits, the husband quits.
 - 2. These two women were probably the first in the church.

- D. What the problem was we don't know, it was the fact of its existence that hindered the work.
 - 1. Don't let minor things hinder the church.
 - 2. The church is more important than personal ideas.

- E. It was not to be ignored!
 - 1. "and I solemnly beg you my true comrade, help them to be reconciled."
 - a. It was to be dealt with according to the Bible.
 - b. Did Paul know. Matt. 18:
 - c. Don't take sides, show them the Scriptures, pray

II. HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM. MATT. 18:15-17.

- A. The offended is to make the first move.
 - 1. Prevents a long time period.
 - 2. The offender may not know they have offended.

- B. The offense can be taken care of by two people only.
 - 1. "go and tell him his fault between thee and and him alone."
 - 2. Some say, "I don't want to cause trouble!"
 - 3. To not do as the Bible teaches, causes trouble.

- C. This is God's way, it will work!
 - 1. You can trust the Lord.
 - 2. No one has ever been harmed by doing what is right.

- D. They had something to rejoice about.
 - 1. "whose names are in the book of life."