

P.M. OUTLINE
1/12/2020

DO & DON'T

(Philippians 4:4 - 7)

1. (v1) DO "STAND FAST" AND DON'T BE DEFEATED

Do think about one another the way Paul does: "beloved" (precious, to be treasured), "longed for" (miss them when they are away, and be glad when they return), "brethren" (we are family), "my joy" (3 John v3 "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" "and crown" (the joy of a teacher seeing students achieve), "so stand fast in the Lord" (encourage one another).

Don't be defeated by not "holding fast the confession of our hope" (Hebrews 10:23-25).

2. (v2-3) DO "BE OF THE SAME MIND" AND DON'T BE DEVISIVE

Don't copy contention or allow it to exist in the congregation. Paul "implored" both to stop the division. A repeated exhortation in the letter: (1:9, v27; 2:2; 3:16; 4:2)

Do "help these women." - it's not the obligation of just one person (Gal. 6:1).

The rationale to do so is three-fold: unity in spirit "be of the same mind," unity in service "labored with me," and unity in salvation "whose names are in the Book of Life."

3. (v4) DO "REJOICE IN THE LORD" AND DON'T BE DISCOURAGED

Do "rejoice in the Lord" - happiness is dependent on happenings and joy is dependent on Jesus. If we live by "happenstance," our happiness is dependent on circumstances. When we have joy "in the Lord," it can be our constant possession because it does not depend on circumstances.. (Psalm 5:11-12, 9:1-2; Habakkuk 3:17-19)

Don't be discouraged by waiting for the right circumstance to make you happy. "Rejoice."

4. (v5) DO "LET YOUR GENTLENESS BE KNOWN TO ALL MEN" AND DON'T BE DEFENSIVE

Do show "gentleness" - be reasonable; accommodating; big-hearted; forbearance; generous; non-reactionary; patient willingness to yield without violating principles. Paul is not talking about compromise on doctrinal essentials.

Don't stand fast on the wrong things. Don't be defensive. Abstain from harshness. Don't stand firm on your own opinion, become extreme, obsessive, or unreasonable. Avoid that inflexible attitude that will not bend or yield to another's opinion. Don't be a Euodia and Syntyche causing strife in the congregation over personal ideas.

5. (v6-7) DO "PRAY" AND DON'T BE DISTURBED OR DESTROY YOUR PEACE

Do "pray" "thanksgiving" "supplication" "your requests"

Don't "be anxious" - a worry that takes you "out of service."

Results: "peace of God" "surpasses all understanding" "guard" "through Christ Jesus"