Sermon Discussion Guide

November 15, 2026
Philippians 4:1-9

Summary

Big Idea: The Gospel Enables Us to Think New Thoughts & Practice New Habits
In our verses, Paul addresses particular struggles the church was navigating. In this we see Paul, in love, shepherding the church by taking the gospel truths he has taught us throughout the letter and applying them to the specific struggles of the Philippian church. The essence of his instructions here are that the church should stand firm, by pursuing unity, to rejoice in the Lord, to be reasonable and gracious, to replace our anxieties with God's peace through prayer, and to direct our thoughts toward praiseworthy things, so that we can practice these things – i.e. live out this gospel together.

Discussion Questions

1. In your life right now, what's *good*? (What are you giving thanks for?)
    a. What's *hard*? (What are you tempted to worry about?)

Read Philippians 4:1-9

2. What issue does Paul address first in these verses?
    a. How does he frame his correction? List out all of the positive and affectionate language surrounding his entreating of Euodia and Syntyche?
    b. What is Paul's solution to their disagreement?
        i. Note that "agree" in v2 is the same words for "have the same mind" in 2:2
    c. What role does the church, fellow brothers and sisters, play in pursuing unity?
        i. How have you seen and experienced this in your time in the church?
    d. Do you need to take decisive steps toward unity with a fellow believer? What? How?
3. What are your top 2-3 areas of worry and anxiety? How does it show up in your life?
    a. *"Anxiety and worry are the failure to believe the promises of God in His word."*
        i. Have you ever considered anxiety that way?
        ii. What truths are you not believing and trusting in your worry? Take your top area of worry and think/talk it through with the group.
        iii. What would it look like to replace worry with prayer and thanksgiving in that area?
4. What things does Paul desire for us to think and dwell on?
    a. To what extent to you already do this? Which areas are harder? Which are relatively easier?
    b. What would it look like to proactively pursue this way of thinking? What effect do you think this would have on your life?
    c. What motive do we have for thinking this way? For living this way?
5. *The Lord is at hand*. How does this truth transform how you think about conflict? Worry?