

- I. Prayer can resolve any conflict
- II. Paul begins by presenting a problem
  - A. Tension (vs 1-3)
  - B. Intention (vs 4-7)
  - C. Retention (vs 8-9)
- III. Tension (1-3)
  - A. In ch 3, Paul encourages the Philippians to imitate him as he follows Christ
    - 1. They should do this because they are citizens of heaven
  - B. But, people in the church are disagreeing!!
- IV. Intention (4-7)
  - A. Things we should be intentional about is all situations
    - 1. Rejoice
    - 2. Be reasonable (gentle, lenient)
      - a) *The Lord is "at hand," (near and ready to help)*
    - 3. Not being anxious (brooding over or overthinking things)
    - 4. Praying over everything
    - 5. Being thankful in all things
      - a) *God will give us His peace (Jhn 14:27)*
- V. Intention
  - A. We must retain those things we have been taught
    - 1. Whatever is true – upright and honest
    - 2. Honorable – dignified in heaven and on earth
    - 3. Just – morally right---not morally self-justified
    - 4. Pure – holy, heavenly, godly
    - 5. Commendable – praiseworthy
    - 6. If it is excellent – of good character and virtue
    - 7. If it is worthy of praise – worship, adoration, adulation
  - B. We must intentionally think on all these things
    - 1. Refuse to dwell on their opposites
  - C. We must practice these things, pondering them
    - 1. Sound like prayer, doesn't it?