

Dangerous Divisions

Sermon 17 in the Philippians Series

I. Paul's True Affection for the Philippian Believers v. 1

II. The Potentially Dividing Dispute 4:2

In every human community there is the potential for division.
It's what happens when sinners get together.
Blessed are the peacemakers – and Paul plays the role of peacemaker.

III. Paul Calls for a United Effort at Unity 4:3

1. “True companion” is the Greek word *syzgus*
2. The Book of Life – Revelation 20:11-15

IV. A Call to Joy and Gentleness 4:4-5

1. Rejoice is a continuing theme in Philippians – 3:1
2. No one word can capture the Greek word translated “gentleness”.
Big-heartedness, forbearance, geniality, kindness, reasonableness,
considerateness – charitableness – mildness – generosity.
3. The motivation for it all – The Lord is at Hand (Near) **3:20-21**

V. How to Avoid Being Part of the Problem -- James 4:6-11a

1. We should ask ourselves is this an issue that is really important enough to be concerned about.
2. If it is so important that it can't be overlooked have you gone to the person individually first before you talk to someone else about it?