

Philippians 4:1

Love & Leadership

Loving leadership...

I. Sacred Bond

- A. God's People
- B. Christ's Under-shepherds

II. "Pride" & Joy

- A. Deep Delight
- B. Satisfying Service

III. Caring Concern

- A. Firm In Christ
- B. Fit for Battle

Children, listen ...

1. Who are the leaders of your church?
2. Whose example are they to follow in the way they lead?
3. What does it mean to "stand firm" in the Lord?
4. What are some things Christians need battle against in life?
In the church?

Encouraged & Alert

The apostle Paul is not a man given to flattery, and yet, he is not afraid to express the delight he derives from his relationship with the church at Philippi. He has written about his love for them and then he takes it further. He finds true joy in the fact that they are established in the Lord and finds great satisfaction that the Lord has used his labors to build on that. He rejoices that they are doing well. But Paul is not naïve. He knows that believers are engaged in a battle and therefore he exhorts them to stand firm in the Lord. They are to hold their ground (so to speak), firmly planted on the foundation they have in Christ and the doctrines of grace contained in the scriptures. The fact that they must stand firm clearly suggests that there are elements at play that will threaten their footing. So, standing firm, they must be prepared to withstand and conquer trials and temptations they will inevitably face. Our church is blessed and a blessing in many ways, and for that we give thanks to the Lord. But we must consciously and doggedly stand firm on the foundation we have in Christ – resisting temptations and trials that come arise within and from outside the body of Christ.