

Philippians 4:1-7

*Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!*

***<sup>2</sup> I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup> Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.***

*<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.*

*<sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

***“How do We, as Followers of Jesus, Experience True Reconciliation with Others?”***

***Discussion Questions***

1. What do you think is the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation? Is it possible to have one without the other?
2. What are some other Bible passages that speak on forgiveness and reconciliation? What can they add to this week's sermon on this topic?
3. When have you personally experienced or seen true reconciliation between people in conflict? What enabled the reconciliation? What can we take from this passage and the passages mentioned in question 2 to help us when we experience conflict with others?

If you would like to further discuss the subject of reconciliation with Pastor Matt Lee further, feel free to email him at [mlce@fpchouston.org](mailto:mlce@fpchouston.org).

In addition, here are several additional: Resources

*The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict*, Ken Sande

Ephesians 4:32

*<sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

***“How do I forgive and heal?”***

***Discussion Questions***

1. Read Ephesians 4:32. How has forgiveness been misused in the church, and what are ways we can confess and seek to repair this misuse?
2. Read Ephesians 4:32 again. "Forgive" is a verb, which confronts us with the irreducible *practical* character of the command to forgive. Why is it important to see forgiveness primarily as a practice rather than as an inward release of resentful emotions? How does God heal us by calling us to practice forgiveness? Is the practice of forgiveness a habit in our life together?
3. Read Ephesians 4:32 again. Who does the text call to practice forgiveness, a singular individual or a community? Why is it important to practice forgiveness in community? What is the connection between communal forgiveness and healing from injury? Are we practicing forgiveness as a community, and are we healing as a community?
4. Read Ephesians 4:32 again. Why are we called to practice forgiveness in community? If we have been forgiven by God, what does this tell us about human innocence and guilt? What's the relationship between God's forgiveness of us and our healing?
5. Last, existentially gripping question: Have you received God's gracious, healing forgiveness in Jesus Christ, and are you ready to embark on the adventure that is practicing forgiveness in Christian community?

If you would like to further discuss the subject of forgiveness & healing with YA Director, Jimmy Myers, feel free to email him at [jmyers@fpchouston.org](mailto:jmyers@fpchouston.org).