

## Additional Notes

## Advancing the Gospel of the Kingdom Kingdom Culture (part 4): A Culture of Peace

Jerry Cisar — March 13, 2022

Text: Philippians 4:2-7

### Introduction

#### LIVE THE STORY

*The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- Why might it be important to read the promise of Philippians 4:6-7 that we might have peace that passes understanding not only as a personal peace but a cessation of hostilities between people?
- Do you think “peace” is an accurate picture of the salvation that was promised with the coming of the Messiah? Explain.
- In Philippians 2:2; 4:2, Paul calls us to “think the same thing.” Or, to be of the same mind. Given that getting any two people together, much less a whole church, will expose disagreements, how is it possible for a church to “agree to agree”?
- Why is the Christ-hymn, and Paul’s connecting phrase of 2:5, essential to experiencing this peace which Paul describes?
- What might it look like to change our controlling narrative to that of Philippians 2:6-11? Can you think of specifics in your own life?
- Why is it essential that we change the stuff we are thinking about (4:8-10) if we are going to have the God of peace present with us?
- Why is this pursuit of peace a community project? What does that look like for you?

### I. Changing Our Goal (Phil. 4:2-7)

#### A. The Goal of Peace

- i. “Peace” from the Greek *eirene* (Irene) is how *shalom* was translated from Hebrew into Greek in the OT.
  - a) Any true peace with God will grow toward peace in our relationships with others.
  - b) When Paul promises peace that passes understanding, he is describing an experience of salvation which is transformative to our lives together.
    - Isaiah 52:7; Nahum 1:15
    - Isaiah 11:6-7
  - c) To have peace which passes all understanding is to live in the fulness of our promised salvation! It is the goal of the transforming nature of the Gospel.

#### B. Agree to agree.

- i. 4:2 ESV “to agree in the Lord,” or (NIV) “to be of the same mind.” Literally, “to think the same thing.”

ii. What Paul tells these two women is the same thing he already told the whole church.

a) Phil. 1:27

b) Phil. 2:2 This is the path to peace that passes understanding.

C. How do we do that? How do we think the same things?

## II. Changing Our Story (Phil. 2:5-11)

A. Without the lifeblood flowing out of Philippians 2:5-11, God's supernatural peace cannot be experienced.

B. The Christ-hymn (Phil. 2:6-7) was Paul's master story.

i. What do I mean by "Master story"? It means 3 things:<sup>1</sup>

a) That it's the essential Gospel.

b) This is also the controlling narrative (story) of Paul's life.

➤ What is a *controlling narrative*? It is a story to which we submit our lives and conform to it. It means rejecting our natural narrative which controls us, or the cultural narrative that controls us.

➤ Paul talks about the narrative that controlled his life prior to Christ in 3:4-6.

c) That this gospel story, is *to be* the controlling narrative for all believers.

ii. What does this look like?

## III. Changing Our Practice (Phil. 4:8-10)

A. Having the God of Peace with us (4:8-10)

B. Put it into Practice

i. It involves an example a disciple-er.

ii. It involves formative behavior... practice.

Richard F. Lovelace: "It takes time, and the penetration of the truth, to make a mature saint."

iii. It is the only path to a fruitful life.

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<sup>1</sup>Adapted from Michael Gorman, *Becoming the Gospel*, 62.