

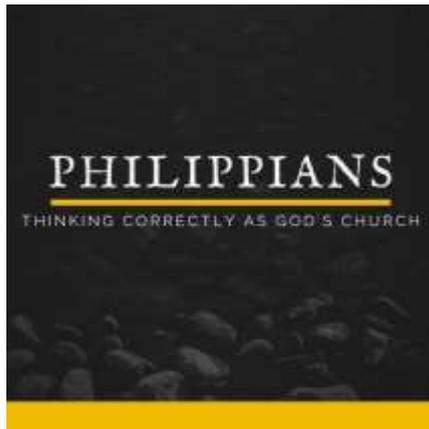
***Thinking Correctly about Reconciliation***  
***Philippians 4:1-3***

***Big Idea:*** *When disagreements arise (and they will), Christians are called to pursue reconciliation.*

**Context:** *Paul just finished a section (3:17-4:1) with a call for unified steadfastness in Jesus Christ, especially since Christians are citizens of Heaven. In Chapters 1-2 Paul calls Christians to be, “Of one mind, striving side by side for the faith of the Gospel” (1:27).*

**I. Paul appeals to these Christian women to be **reconciled** over their disagreement. (4:2)**

- They needed to, “Have the same mind in the Lord.”
- They had labored together (“side by side”) with Paul’s missionary team.
- They were going to spend eternity together in Heaven.
- Their disagreement was not just affecting their personal testimony by was also affecting:
  - Their church’s testimony for Christ to their community.
  - Their church’s focus on discipleship and evangelism.



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## II. Paul appeals to a brother in Christ to serve as a mediator with the goal of reconciliation. (4:3)

- Paul refers to this man as “true companion.”
- Paul’s statement could perhaps be translated, “Yes, and I ask you also, **Syzygus.**”
- Either way, this was a brother in Christ who was aware of the situation and could be a help in reconciling these women.

## III. Paul provides some principles for reconciliation.

- Make Jesus Christ your focus.
- Recognize your responsibility to pursue reconciliation, even if you feel or “know” you are in “the right.”
- Enlist the help of godly brothers or sisters in Christ to serve as mediators if needed.
- You cannot force reconciliation, but you should always be in a posture of seeking reconciliation. (Unilateral forgiveness)
- Keep eternity in view!

## Application

Since Christians are called to live for the glory of God...

1. Pursue Gospel-centered reconciliation for the glory of God.
2. Rejoice in Gospel-centered unity for the glory of God.
3. Thrive together with your church family for God’s glory.

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