

To Live Is Christ | Agree In The Lord

Philippians 4:2-9

2 I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. 3 Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. – Philippians 4:2-9

I. Introduction

- A. A bloody week / an emotional week: We need an environment to process these things together...away from our keyboards and, rather, together...Tonight at 6:00: An Evening of Lament & Prayer tonight at Missio Dei Church 621 S. White Station Rd.
- B. The slain:
 1. Alton Sterling
 2. Philandro Castile
 3. Brent Thompson
 4. Patrick Zamarripa
 5. Michael Krol
 6. Lorne Ahrens
 7. Michael Smith
- C. My aim: To address the particular ways this impacts us (not every complexity) and how we can respond.

II. Troubling Conversations

- A. "Quit wallowing in the past"
- B. "Let go of the past and get a vision for what Jesus wants to do in the world"
- C. The 70 shootings and 6 deaths in Chicago on Memorial Day weekend — "there were no marches...protests..."
 - 1. How do you know people aren't protesting? And the activists...?
 - 2. Do you think black people are content with this reality...with each passing funeral they attend?!
 - 3. The fact is the being killed by a police officer only adds salt to a gaping ethnic wound.
- D. "We need to wait for the facts to come out before speaking."
 - 1. Alton Sterling and Philando Castile are still dead. Can you not mourn?
 - 2. "But he's a criminal" (totally hypocritical from the "wait-and-see" crowd)
 - 3. Would you still say that if he was your son, father, or brother?
 - a) Your past held against you in one solitary moment to justify your killing?
 - b) We simply don't know the condition of his heart — and the last time I checked, Jesus commanded us not to judge others.
 - c) H.B. Charles: "*The Bible exhorts us to weep with those who weep (Rom. 12:15). It doesn't tell us to judge whether they should be weeping.*"
- E. "We need to stop praying and do something"
- F. "Why are white people bringing up Sterling's old crimes to justify his death?"
- G. A white girl to her black boyfriend: "We won't let this separate us..."

III. Iceberg illustration

- A. Slide 1: What we see...
- B. Philippians 2:3-8: "...in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind

among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

C. Slide 2: What they feel...

1. Lecrae Moore: "Nobody would deny that if someone was a billionaire in 1962, his billions are going to affect all of his descendants. The reverse is also true. The lack of education, material and finances for a slave are going to affect the descendants of that individual as well. So when you start looking at it [like that] and stepping back, you may say, "Ah, okay. It's more of a systemic issue that's happening." If you start to see some of these infrastructural [issues], that will start to make a difference. But to be fair, that process takes humility on both sides. It also takes a great deal of humility for someone to quell his or her emotions, frustrations, and anger with another who constantly can't see the emotional turmoil they're going through. The person who feels frustrated by those who don't readily understand or acknowledge racism, will struggle to consistently paint the narrative for them." - Lecrae Moore
2. **Consider how you expect me to counsel you...**
3. I'm not asking you to agree with every sentiment you hear on the news; I'm asking you to stop assessing people's feelings and pain and simply feel with them. I'm asking you to get out of your head and face your heart...
4. The majority race (whites) are crucial players in bringing about harmony. This is not about "white guilt" or shaming, but simply acknowledging our responsibility to follow Scriptures' command to "*do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God*" (Micah 6:8).

IV. Text — Philippians 4:2-9

A. 2-5a: *I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. 3 Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.*

- Your conflict doesn't reflect your identities
- Rejoice (as a result of moving toward one another)
- When people are exposed to your heart and speech, let them say, "He is reasonable"..."She isn't jaded by bias"...

B. 5b-9: *The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me-practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*

- Fear can turn into anger, withdrawal, deeply held resentment...
- Rather than feeding on media that will
 - BLM: a hashtag or a philosophical view which breeds paranoia & anger)
 - Other news outlets: breed paranoia & anger towards black people, to the extent that we coldly assess killings, lump people together under one clean, but monstrous category
- The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything
 - We must work toward building a better, peaceful world;

- But we must also have a kingdom view of history...and the future...
- Requests: Pray (tonight's gathering)
- We must set our minds (*program* our minds) to think this way...

V. Conclusion

- A. Pray for the Castile, Sterling, and DPD families
- B. An Evening of Lament & Prayer
 1. Missio Dei Church 621 S. White Station Rd. at 6:00pm
 2. We need to hear stories...create a safe place to learn...we need to hold hands...
- C. I want to hear from you...I want to see you active...push us to think more justly...
- D. But show up!
- E. Many of us want to blame...
 1. Brené Brown: "I woke up this morning looking for someone to blame. Someone to hate. Someone who I could make the single target of my fear about the officers killed in Dallas and the killing of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile. It was such a desperate feeling to want to discharge the uncertainty and scarcity. Then it dawned on me that this is the exact drive that fueled what's happening right now. Instead of feeling hurt we act out our hurt. Rather than acknowledging our pain, we inflict it on others. Neither hate nor blame will lead to the justice and peace that we all want - it will only move us further apart. But we can't forget that hate and blame are seductive. Anger is easier than grief. Blame is easier than real accountability. When we choose instant relief in the form of rage, we're in many ways choosing permanent grief for the world." — Brené Brown
 2. Jesus did the same thing for the wrath of God:

- a) Psalm 7:11: "*God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day.*"
- b) Jesus took the wrath of God upon himself
 - (1) Forgiveness for the humble who repent
 - (2) Final judgement for the oppressors