

Community Group Discussion Guide

Sunday, January 3, 2021



THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

In this week's passage, Paul instructs the Philippians to stand firm in the Lord by agreeing and assisting one another in unity, rejoicing and being reasonable to everyone, and praying with supplication with thanksgiving.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION *(Use along with Reading: Ante Faciem Dei)*

- Why is conflict inevitable? How does Paul instruct the Philippians to handle the interpersonal conflict in the church (verses 2-3)? How does accountability contribute to relational reconciliation and unity in Christ?
- What is the difference between happiness and joy? How do we obey the command to rejoice while experiencing hardship (verse 4)?
- What does Paul mean by reasonableness (verse 5; Proverbs 15:1)? Do you exude an attitude of gentleness or harshness? What does it mean "the Lord is at hand," and how does it influence our joy and reasonableness?
- What is Paul's command in verse 6? Contrast unhealthy worry and healthy concern (Proverbs 14:15; 16:9). What does our anxiety reveal about our understanding of God? What is the cure for sinful anxiety (verses 6-7; 1 Peter 5:6-7)?
- What is prayer, and how should we pray (verse 6)? For what can we always be thankful no matter our circumstances (Romans 5:8-9; 8:28)? Is your life characterized by prayer? Are your prayers saturated with thanksgiving?
- How do we experience divine peace (Romans 5:1)? How does God's peace guard and defend us (verse 7; Isaiah 26:3)?