

Faith Talk - Mar. 15, 2026

Series: Philippians: Together for the Gospel

Sermon: Harmony: Stand With Others for the Gospel

Scripture: Philippians 4:1-9

Philippians 4:6-7

Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Sermon Summary

This sermon from Philippians 4:1-9 addresses how Christians can maintain unity despite disagreements. Using A.W. Tozer's piano illustration: one hundred pianos tuned to the same fork are automatically in harmony with each other. As a church body, we realize our individual focus is to be in tune with Jesus, and the corporate result is harmony with one another.

Paul confronts real conflict within the Philippian church, seeking a "true partner" to help lead two women toward agreement, because disharmony hinders church health and the Gospel's progress.

Through the suggested Get in Tune with Jesus prayer (Release, Rely, Receive, Rejoice), believers can guard against hurt and offense and experience the peace of God, enabling them to worship and serve in unity with one another. Paul commands us to dwell on what is true, honorable, and praiseworthy rather than on offense, hurt, and lies, which enables us to extend love and forgiveness even in conflict.

To be humble and maintain harmony, we must first pray to God and, second, dwell on the truth.

Pastor Brian closed the sermon by challenging us to practice humility by releasing an offense and extending love. Specifically, we are to tell or text someone, "I love you," to demonstrate that we have no offense and there is nothing between us. Our response is to receive and reciprocate.

Philippians 4: Get in Tune with Jesus Prayer

- **Release** for peace. Let nothing steal your peace.
- **Rely** with requests. Present the worry, disagreement, and conflict to God.
- **Receive** protection. God will heal and guard your heart and mind in Christ.
- **Rejoice** in the Lord. Let your graciousness be known to everyone.

Discussion Questions

Conversations with Adults

1. The sermon uses Tozer's piano illustration: we're in tune with each other when we're each in tune with Christ. Where in your life are you more focused on getting others "in tune" with you rather than tuning yourself to Christ?
2. Paul says to dwell on what is "true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable" about people. Think of someone you're in conflict with. What would it look like to deliberately dwell on God's image in them rather than on a fleshly offense by them?
3. The "Four R's" (Release, Rely, Receive, Rejoice) offer a pattern for prayer during conflict. Which of these four is hardest for you, and what specific conflict could you apply this pattern to this week?

Conversation with Students

1. Social media makes it easy to "make known" our frustrations about people. How does Paul's instruction to make your "graciousness known to everyone" challenge how you handle disagreements online?
2. The sermon mentions RC Sproul and Billy Graham, who disagreed on important doctrines but didn't let those disagreements destroy their unity in Christ. What disagreements with Christian friends have you allowed to damage relationships, and how could you pursue harmony while still having different views?
3. What's one practical way you could "tune your heart to Jesus" daily so you're less reactive when conflicts arise with friends or family?

Conversation with Kids

1. The sermon talks about pianos being in tune with each other when they're all tuned to the same fork. How is that like Christians getting along because we all follow Jesus?
2. When you get upset with someone, what do you usually think about, the thing they did wrong or how Jesus loves them? Which one helps you be kind?
3. Paul says we should tell people, "I love you." Who is someone you could say that to this week, maybe someone you've been upset with?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the example of Christ, who maintained perfect harmony with You even when facing opposition and offense. We're grateful that our unity with others flows from our individual alignment with You.

We ask for help in keeping our focus on Christ rather than on others' failures or our own offenses. When conflict arises, help us to release the hurt, rely on You for justice and peace, receive Your protection for our hearts and minds, and rejoice in You rather than in being right. Give us grace to dwell on what is true about people, their identity in Christ, rather than dwelling on what divides us.

We commit to being "true partners" who work for harmony in Your church. Help us to extend love even when it feels awkward or undeserved. May our individual humility produce corporate unity that strengthens our testimony and advances the Gospel. In Jesus' name, Amen.