

HOW TO GET ALONG

Dear Friend:

The Apostle Paul wrote the book of Philippians to the church at Philippi, located in northeast Greece. We need to understand that “church” in the first century A.D. was far different than today’s idea of church. For about the past 1,500 years the idea of church was a building located somewhere where people gather. There were no church buildings when the Philippians met and the meaning of church was...all people who follow God. “Churches” met in homes, which meant the average church was not much larger than 15 people.

Philippians must have been one of Paul’s favorite churches and no doubt the Philippians clearly loved Paul, they were the most dedicated financial partners both to Paul and the poor Christians in Jerusalem. Paul fills the book of Philippians with all kinds of praise and compliments to them. However, Paul has one concern: there appears to be a small crack starting in the unity of the church. The most obvious sign to this is in chapter 4, Paul has to plead with the Philippians to help two women get along.

Another indication that there was trouble in the Philippian paradise can be detected from Philippians chapter 2. Paul spends practically the whole chapter describing human relationships, characterized in the example of how Christ lived. Copying the example of Christ, people can learn how to get along. Let me share some of the high points.... First, Paul talks about the marks of spiritual maturity. Spiritual maturity is found in being like-minded, loving each other, and being one in spirit and purpose. Next, Paul talks about how to become spiritually mature. Do not do anything out of selfish ambition, consider others better than yourself, look out for the interest of others first. Finally, in chapter 2 Paul talks about the model of spiritual maturity....copy this model and you will know how to get along with others. The model? Jesus, of course. Jesus modeled humbleness, servanthood, and full obedience. All of this is easier said than done, right? It can be done or Paul would not have written it. If Paul’s advice is too hard to follow, take the advice of Jeff Foxworthy....get ‘er done!

In Christ’s Love, Pastor Mike

Prayer Requests: Harry Kring, (surgery), Cathy Cotton (surgery), decline in COVID!

Events: Sunday, January 30, Miracle Baptism for Mavis Baker