

Victory Hour

by Wanda Bolton-Davis

Euodia and Syntyche



Two Sisters in Dispute

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Introduction

The greatest test for the heart of the Christian is not in how gifted they are, how they speak in tongues, how well they pray, or how diligently they serve, but rather the quality of their relationships. Anyone can posture themselves as a child of God, but the true test is how they treat one another. 1 John 2:3-6 gives us the test of true Christianity. *We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did (NIV).* John 13:35 puts it this way; *By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*

The first test for true Christianity is moral obedience. The problem in the lives of many Christians is they accept Christ, but live contrary to the Word of God. However, only those who obey God can rightly claim to know Him. The second test for true Christianity is love for others. Relationships can be difficult, but it is a testing ground of our love for God and stepping stones for building character. When Christians are keeping God's Word, the love of God is being perfected in their lives. Whether we like it or live it, there is a direct correlation between what we believe and what we do (1 John 2:3).

Outline

1) Paul's letter to the Philippians

- a. Written from prison in Rome around A.D. 60-63
- b. Women played a prominent part in the book of Philippians
 - i. Philippi's original name was Krenides "Little Fountains" – There was an abundance of springs for water. The river bank was a gathering place where many women would meet for prayer (Acts 16:12-13)
- c. Philippi was the first European city in which Paul preached and Lydia (from Philippi) and later a Philippian jailer were converted.
- d. Paul is writing the Philippians
 - i. To thank them for money they had sent to him and to let them see that Epaphroditus, who became ill while delivering the money, was well again (Phil. 4:10-20)
 - ii. To announce Timothy's future visit (2:19)
 - iii. To express his desire to visit them again (2:24)
 - iv. To address a problem between two women in the Philippian church (4:2)
- e. The theme that flows through the book of Philippians
 - i. Joy
 - ii. Unity



I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life. Philippians 4:2-3

1) The Women in Dispute – Phil. 1:1-2

- a. They were Christians
- b. They were Sisters (in the Lord)
- c. They were co-laborers in the kingdom

2) Paul's Sense of Urgency

- a. Implore: to plea, to beg, to beseech, entreat with tears, strong push
- b. Romans 12:1

3) Paul's Desire for Unity

- a. He Preached Unity (We must teach peace) – 1 Cor. 1:10
 - i. Have One Message
 - ii. Have One Mission
 - iii. Have One Mind
- b. He Modeled Unity (We must model peace) – 1 Cor. 9:18-27
- c. He was a peacemaker (We must intervene with peace) – “help these women”
 - i. Matt. 5:9 – Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God.
 - ii. Romans 4:19 – Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and the things wherewith one may edify another.

4) What's the big deal?

- a. If we do not love others, we cannot love God
 - i. 1 John 4:20-21
- b. We are connected to each other
 - i. Ro. 12:5; 1 Cor. 10:17; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 4:13
- c. We are dependent upon each other
 - i. 1 Cor. 12:14-25
- d. We are affected by each other
 - i. 1 Cor. 12:26
- e. We need what the other has
 - i. 1 Cor. 12:27-31

5) God has already given you what you need to love others

- a. Spiritual blessing in heavenly places (Eph. 1:3)
- b. A way of Escape (1 Cor. 10:13)
- c. Demonstrate your love and trust God to do the rest (Rom. 5:8)