The Ministry of Conciliation  
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Transcribed from handwritten notes inside the Elkins File Cabinet  
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Phil. 4:2,3

A. Introduction
1. This is the only blemish on the congregation.
2. In our introduction to the original members of the Philippians – born after a prayer-meeting. A company of godly woman “resorted to the riverside to pray”. We do not know whether Euodia and Syntche were among them or not.
3. Paul has not burdened his letter with any of the details of the trouble, and no good purpose would be served by our speculation.
4. It is amazing in what a tiny pinch of dirt a weed can find a footing. We do not need to become deeply carnal to harbor jealousy or suspicion a pinch of dirt can give the necessary footing. And when we neglect the Lord that pinch is soon available, and all sorts of noxious growths contend with one another for a place in our lives.
5. He exhorts them to recover their unity “in the Lord”. And that is the only place in which they profitably seek it. Real solidarity can be found only “in the Lord”!
6. The only really effective way of ice remaining ice is by raising the temperature. And when two people have been “cold” toward each other, when their conversation and fellowship are “like ice”, the only resource is to raise the temperature.
7. It is marvelous that their fellow believers can help bring Euodia and Syntche into blessed union again.

A. “I beseech thee also, true yoke-fellow help these women for they labored with me in the gospel”

1. It matters little or nothing who the true yoke-fellow is, whether Epraphroditus, Timothy, or Silas. The important matter is that somebody is brought to put their spiritual energies at the service of these estranged members of the church.
2. The quarrel must not be left alone. The division must not be permitted to widen into bitter hatred and contempt.
3. When two members of the Church are at variance, it is the holy business of the Church to help them to be reconciled.
4. This is not only for the sake of the two members themselves first, but also for the sake of the entire Church.
5. Moral maladies are contagious. Personal variances are prone to lead to further discussions. I Cor. 5:6
6. The entire service of the church must therefore be concentrated for the purpose of repairing and healing wounds between members.
7. When the human body is wounded, it immediately marshals a vast army and sends it to the place of attack. And so would Paul, when a rift is made in the Church, which is the body of our Lord.
8. See with what force he calls together. He beseeches his “true yoke-fellow”, and expects results.
B. “Clement also, and the rest of my fellow-workers.”

1. All are exhorted to “help” in ending the estrangement between Euodia and Syntche.
2. It is a most suggestive counsel. Countless bitter discussions might have been averted if the counsel had been prayerfully and consistently followed.
3. Small misunderstandings, which aggravated into rabid sectarianisms, might have healed at the beginning if only the church had massed her conciliatory energies in the presence of the Lord.
4. But we have allowed pin pricks to fester until the blood has been infected.

C. Conclusion

1. Make every effort to keep the unity and the bond of peace.
2. Since you are citizens of heaven, keep your feet firmly planted on the heavenly road.
3. Rivet your thoughts on Him.
4. Rest your faith in Him.
5. Allow no distraction. Do not wander away into unlicensed conduct. Let all that is within you “Praise And Bless His Holy Name”.