

# Euodia and Syntyche

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- I. Introduction
  - a. What do you know about Euodia and Syntyche?
    - i. Not much?
    - ii. Euodia –
      - 1. shortest word with all five vowels in it
      - 2. Also means – good journey
    - iii. Syntyche –
      - 1. Means – “Well met, or good luck”
    - iv. These were two women who were members of the church of Christ in Philippi who are immortalized with a single verse in Scripture
    - v. Phil. 4:2
  - b. They needed to get along!
- II. KEY THOUGHT – When brethren don’t get along, it causes all kinds of problems in the church
- III. Euodia and Syntyche
  - a. They were part of a great congregation
    - i. Phil. 4:1
    - ii. Hardly a single rebuke in the whole letter
    - iii. They had many things right
    - iv. But something was wrong – Euodia and Syntyche
  - b. They needed to get along
    - i. Some people just have a talent for getting on your nerves
    - ii. Come from different backgrounds
    - iii. Come from similar backgrounds
    - iv. These women had a problem
    - v. The apostle writes all the way from Rome, all the way from prison, to address their issue
  - c. The brethren needed to help them to get along
    - i. They needed to be reminded to get along
    - ii. They needed to be held accountable for how their relationship was affecting others in the congregation
    - iii. This “True companion” is unnamed, but apparently this person was to act as a peacemaker and “helper” of these women that had trouble
      - 1. Help means to take hold of
      - 2. Sometime help is uncomfortable
      - 3. But when you need help you need help
      - 4. These women needed help getting along
- IV. Fightin’ Words
  - a. Strife

- i. Characteristic of the godless - Romans 1:28-29 NKJV And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,
- ii. A work of darkness - Romans 13:12-13 NKJV The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.
- iii. A work of the flesh - Galatians 5:19-21 NKJV Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- iv. A severe problem in Corinth - 1 Corinthians 1:10-11 NKJV 10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. 11 For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you.
- v. and an indication of spiritual immaturity - 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 NKJV 1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; 3 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?
- vi. And persistent - 2 Corinthians 12:20 NKJV 20 For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and that I shall be found by you such as you do not wish; lest there be contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults;
- vii. The product of false teaching - 1 Timothy 6:3-5 NKJV If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, 4 he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife,

reviling, evil suspicions, 5 useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.

- b. Rivalry – selfish ambition, electioneering for an office, jockeying for position
  - i. A work of the flesh - Galatians 5:19-21
  - ii. A problem at Corinth - 2 Corinthians 12:20
  - iii. A motive for some preachers and some preaching - Philippians 1:15-17 NKJV 15 Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: 16 The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; 17 but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.
  - iv. Philippians 2:1-4 NKJV Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.
  - v. James 3:14-17 NKJV But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.
- c. The Solution
  - i. Ephesians 4:29-32 NKJV Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.
  - ii. Colossians 3:8-14 NKJV But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. 12

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

- V. Conclusion – Phil. 4:1-3
  - a. Let us be the type of church that the church at Philippi was
    - i. Beloved
    - ii. Longed-for
    - iii. Joy and Crown
    - iv. Standing fast in the Lord
  - b. Let us resolve our differences so that the blessings of our congregation will not be marred by strife or contention
  - c. And let us help those who are at odds with one another to leave together in the love and peace of Jesus Christ
  - d. Invitation
    - i. Are you in the Book of Life?