

## **Eight Principles for Leading Reconciliation Efforts in the Body of Christ**

In Philippians 4, Paul is asking his 'true companion' to help two women who are followers of Christ and are in conflict. Paul models here how to persuade Christians to reconcile and demonstrate unity.

**These principles offer us guidance in how to restore or strengthen our unity as we address racial justice issues within the body of Christ and then in our communities.**

*I plead with **Euodia** and I plead with **Syntyche** to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, my **true companion**, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.*  
Philippians 4:2-3 (NIV)

### **The Principles:**

1. **Directly confront the issue that is threatening unity** – address it specifically and publicly.
2. **Couch communication in love** – affirm the value of relationships with brothers & sisters in the Lord.
3. **Lift minds to the reality of our salvation & citizenship in heaven** – Christ's transformational power.
4. **"Entreat" rather than command** – come alongside, plead, woo, beckon, call people to this cause.
5. **Do this in the Lord** – not questioning one another's faith; but confirming the need for healing, agreement, working out our unity in the Lord in humility and patience.

*As a prisoner for the LORD, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to **keep (maintain) the unity of the Spirit, through the bond of peace.***

Ephesians 4:1-3

6. **Affirm others not of like mind for being engaged in gospel work** – that we are laboring side by side.
7. **Connect others in conflict with known leaders to help bring unity** – validating by association their importance to the cause.
8. **Encourage and summon Christians to unity** – remind them of our common standing in the Lord & our names being in the 'book of life'.

**We, as these women, are fellow workers and heirs. Working out our unity as part of the body of Christ is essential to our witness and the propagation of the gospel.**

