



**SERIES: Philippians (May / June) “Finding Joy in the Journey”**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Friday, June 18, 2021**

**Scripture: Philippians 4:2-3**

**NC0180**

**TITLE: Stop the Fighting**

What’s in a name? Well, a lot. People say that when a person hears their name, it shows you value them. Did you know that feel-good hormones, such as dopamine and serotonin, are released when your name is heard? Isn’t that something? But we also respond favorably to seeing our name. People are paying YouTubers for credits in their videos. People do GoFundMes, so their name will be in a video game, book, or something else.

I admit this is a cool thing. But there’s a much better place to find your name according to the Apostle Paul in Philippians 4:2-3 (NLT).

“Now I appeal to Euodia and Syntyche. Please, because you belong to the Lord, settle your disagreement. <sup>3</sup> And I ask you, my true partner, to help these two women, for they worked hard with me in telling others the Good News. They worked along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are written in the Book of Life.”

Wow. Can you believe it? People not getting along? Okay, that’s not too surprising. But who are these people? What’s their beef? Well, we don’t know much about these women. What we can ascertain is that they were church members fighting over something trivial, or at least not doctrinal. But like anyone of us, we can get into a disagreement and hold grudges. And what inevitably happens, people begin to take sides. This apparently is happening. So Paul says, “I appeal.” This is serious, so he’s pleading with them to come together and drop the bickering.

They were true partners in the Gospel. They were faithful servants, but got focused on their own issues. They forgot Paul’s call for one mind, one purpose, and one spirit. This unity is only possible because their names are found in the Book of Life. The Book of Life is where God records those who are saved by His Son. According to Matthew 25:35, these names were written in eternity past. They won’t be erased. I know my name’s there. Is yours?

Now here’s my challenge for you today. Fighting and arguments are far too common. Division often follows. So, where is there an argument and division in your life? Chances are, there is someone you need to apologize to and make things right. We should desire unity and harmony as partners in the Gospel, but we get in our own way.

So search your heart and see if there’s someone you need to make things right with. When we live in harmony and in healthy relationships, people will see that we are citizens of Heaven.

Now that you have your challenge go and win the day.