

**SCRIPTURE:**

- Read Philippians 3:20 - 4:3

**CONVERSATIONS**

- Read Philippians 3:20 - 21.
  - How is seeing the church as a colony of heaven / alternate society helpful when it comes to understanding the church's relation to culture?
  - How is that different from the view that has been held by the church over the past 1500 years?
- Read Philippians 4:1.
  - Why is it so important that we stand firm in what we believe?
  - How can we be careful not to confuse tradition and preferences with that which is truly biblical and non-negotiable? What happens in a church if we confuse those two things? Can you give examples?
- Read Philippians 4:2 - 3
  - When it comes to conflict in the church is your tendency to panic or to paper it over and ignore it? Why do you think that is your response?
  - Why is conflict that is ignored or unmanaged so damaging to a church?
  - Why do people who are angry or upset so often not want to talk about it with those that they are angry and upset at?
  - What are some reasons why other people get vortexed into the conflict between two different people?
  - What are some of the lessons about dealing with conflict that we learn from what Paul says about the conflict between Euodia and Syntyche?
  - Can you describe (in general, appropriately confidential and respectful terms) a conflict that you had with someone in the church that was resolved well? What happened? What brought reconciliation and healing to that conflict?

**PRAYER**

- Pray that, like Paul, we would continue to press on toward the upward call of God in Christ Jesus, keeping our focus on Him.
- Pray that we would all grow in faith and in the knowledge of the Lord.
- Pray for opportunities to invite others to come to church
- Pray that we would truly be salt and light in our City and make Jesus known.