

Disagreements

Key Passage: Philippians 4: 1-3 “Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends! 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.”

Disagreements among friends can get ugly, can't they? My friend and I in primary school used to have disagreements that lasted days, and we would both avoid each other, causing confusion among our friend group. One time, a tutor got involved and helped us talk it out. A disagreement in a friend group between two people can damage the whole group.

It's clear in this passage that something is going on here for Euodia and Syntyche and Paul is keen for it to be resolved and is asking that they make peace for the sake of the community. Paul's instruction is to stand firm and be of one mind in the Lord. This is not just directed to individuals but to the church and the community.

For us to work as a team at youth and part of church, we must be at peace with each other.

Sometimes, that means having tough conversations and sorting things out, but this is important for the health of our church family. When people hold things against each other, it only tears the community apart and stops them from achieving their goal (pressing on in faith and honouring Jesus).

Jesus says 'Blessed are the peacemakers' (Matt 5:9), and Paul urges in Romans 12:17-18, “Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” Peacemaking matters. How can we be peacemakers this week?

Reflect: How can you make peace 'as far as it depends on you'? Is there someone you need to apologise to or check in with? Is there someone you might need to speak to tell them you were hurt to give an opportunity of healing to the relationship?

Pray: For a humble heart. That God would help you to work things through with your church family and SwizYouth crew for the sake of Loving Jesus and each other well. Ask God to show you people you might need to speak to apologise to or ask for some resolution. Ask him for what you need this week. Maybe its energy, grace for your family, peace...whatever is on your heart bring it to God in prayer.