

Standing Firm in the Lord: Part 1

Philippians 4:1a

Big Idea: As we seek to live in the tumult of this world, we learn three things about our relationship to one another that ought to sustain us in troubling times.

1. Paul's Heartfelt Desire

3 things we learn about our relationship with one another:

a. We are _____

Philippians 4:1 (ESV) — 1 Therefore, my brothers...

Philippians 4:1 (NIV) 1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters...

Romans 8:29 (NIV) 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Galatians 4:4–5 (ESV) 4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Ephesians 2:19 (ESV) 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

Those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ are not merely acquaintances, we are family.

b. We are _____

Philippians 4:1 (ESV) — 1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for...

Before he exhorts his readers, Paul commends them in some of the most affectionate and endearing language he ever uses in his letters. **In so doing he expresses his sense of closeness to them and his great affection for them...** ἀγαπητοί (whom I love)... shows the warmth of his affection towards them. ἐπιπόθητοι ('longed for, desired')... draws attention to the sense of longing the apostle feels for his readers, perhaps even the pain at being separated from them.¹

Philippians 4:1 (NET) — 1 So then, my brothers and sisters, dear friends whom I long to see, my joy and crown, stand in the Lord in this way, my dear friends!

Our relationships in the church, are given to us by God, in order that we might experience the close bond and heartfelt desire that has been enjoyed by the God-head for all of eternity.

“This world is full of sorrow because it is full of sin. It is a dark place. It is a lonely place. It is a disappointing place. The brightest sunbeam in it is a friend. **Friendship halves our troubles and doubles our joys.**” J.C. Ryle

c. We are _____ and _____

Philippians 4:1 (ESV) — 1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown...

People Are Our Greatest Responsibility and they are also our Greatest Reward.

1 Thessalonians 2:19–20 (ESV) — 19 For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? **20** For you are our glory and joy.

¹ O'Brien, P. T. (1991). *The Epistle to the Philippians: a commentary on the Greek text* (p. 475). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

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