

# REFLECTION

## Lesson 13

### Reflecting Unity Philippians 4:1-3

PAUL SUMMARIZES HIS THOUGHTS

A. Therefore...

**“This is the most affectionate and endearing language he used anywhere – ‘brothers’ – ‘beloved’ – ‘longed for’ – ‘my joy and crown’...this is what they were to Paul as he exhorts them to ‘stand firm’. “**

**Warren Wiersbe**

B. What were they to stand firm in?

1. Being **examples**
2. The joy and wonder of our true **citizenship**
3. Being **transformed** by the Lord Jesus
4. Pressing on to the **call** of God

**“God now commands a visible earthly unity...that His children live in harmony with each other.”**

**James Montgomery Boice**

PAUL THEN CALLS FOR UNITY AMONG BELIEVERS.

A. Disharmony is a reality.

1. Conflict and disagreement **WILL** happen.
2. The **key** is how we **handle** them.
  - a. We can respond in a **loving**, humble **selfless** way.
  - b. We can respond in a **controlling**, arrogantly **stubborn** way.

B. What was happening?

1. **Who** were these **women**?
2. What were the key **phrases** used?
  - a. As you stand **firm**
  - b. **Agree** in the Lord

C. Help each other.

IN SUMMARY...

A. What are the **principles** behind the “why” of unity?

1. The **advancement** of the Gospel
2. Jesus calls us to **unity**.
3. People are **observing**.
4. Love for one another **reveals** our love for God.

B. What are the **strategies** behind the “how” of unity?

1. We are to be **peacemakers**.
2. We are to talk **privately**, but if need be, take **someone** along.
3. We are to be quick to **listen**.
4. We are to ask for **wisdom**.
5. We are to speak truth in **love**.
6. We are to address issues **quickly**.
7. We are to **watch** what we say.
8. We are to **exemplify** the “fruits of the Spirit.”

### **Galatians 5:22-23**

**22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. *139*