



## Thinking Right-Side Up In an ~~upside-down~~ World

### ...about Sharp Disagreements in Church

(Philippians 4:2-3)

Introduction: Not being on the same page can be a BIG problem!

#### Uh-Oh! Trouble in Paradise?

\*The problem: A Sharp DISAGREEMENT between Sisters.

\*What were the ladies disagreeing ABOUT?

-NOT THEOLOGICAL error.

-NOT personal SIN issues.

-Differences in PERSONALITY and/or STRATEGY.

#### Paul's Challenges to Euodia & Syntyche (and to us):

You BOTH need to...

1. Bring your unique PERSPECTIVE to the table.
2. Accept RESPONSIBILITY for the resolution.
3. Realign your MINDSET to match Christ's.
4. Let the CHURCH help you resolve this!

#### Closing Questions:

- Do you care more about the family God gave you and the mission God entrusted to you than you care about getting your way?
- Are you ready to think right-side up like Jesus and agree with your brothers and sisters in the Lord?



**Icebreakers:**

1. Of everyone who experienced the first Easter, who would you most like to interview for 30 minutes and why? (You can't pick Jesus!)
2. What is the funniest thing you ever experienced in a church service?

**Sermon Summary:** Sharp disagreements happen in church all the time, even between believers who are very committed to Jesus and to His mission. Upside-down thinking wants us to react to this by pulling away from one another, but Paul challenges us all to stay together long enough to resolve our differences, with the help of the church, so that we can continue to work together to accomplish God's mission for us.

**Discussion Questions:** (*Read Philippians 4:2-3 together.*)

1. How can you tell when members of a church aren't "on the same page"? What does that look like?

**\* Uh-Oh! Trouble in Paradise?**

2. Are you surprised to hear that Paul wants the church to get involved in settling this disagreement? Shouldn't it be handled privately?
3. What percentage of sharp disagreements in church do you think is over matters of doctrine or personal sin issues? What percentage is over personality differences or differing ideas about strategies?
4. Why do we have so many different ideas about how we are supposed to accomplish the mission? Isn't it all laid out pretty clearly in the Bible?
5. Why do we get our feelings hurt when people disagree with us over how to get things done in church?

**\* Paul's Challenges to Euodia & Syntyche (and to us):**

6. Why is it hard to acknowledge that the other person in a sharp disagreement could be partially right?
7. Why do we give up and pull away from each other when sharp disagreements arise?
8. Why is it hard to submit ourselves to the guidance and decisions of church leadership when we're in the middle of sharp disagreements?