

## Cooperation

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*by Wayne Goff*

There is no end to the good that can be done when people do not care who gets the credit!

It is hard to believe that an entire local church can be slowed or stopped by a few malcontents. But it has happened before and it will happen again. So what should we do? Get happy! Happiness is a choice. We can choose to focus on the negative, or we can choose to focus on the positive. The apostle Paul admonished, “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things” (Phil. 4:8). In other words, focus on the positive things which build up your heart, your soul and your lives. Moreover, Paul said “meditate on these things.” That’s more than just taking a passing glance at them! In these wonderful qualities, one can take a mental, spiritual walk through a virtual museum of inward bliss! Think -- meditate -- consider thoroughly -- deliberate by reflection -- upon the most noble ideas in the universe! It will do your soul good.

Did the beautiful church at Philippi need such thinking? They certainly did. For one thing, the prisoner Paul said that they could “fulfill (his) joy” by being like-minded, having the same love, and being of one accord, and of one mind (2:2). He further admonished them to “do all things without complaining and disputing” (2:14). Apparently there was a little bit of trouble brewing which Paul sought to bring to a quick end.

Then there was the public admonition for Euodia and Syntyche to “be of the same mind in the Lord” (4:2). Evidently there was a little friction between these two godly women. So even in the best of churches there is the need to think on positive, uplifting concepts in order that the bad might be weeded out.

When all of us will focus on the good and positive, great things can be done. We are admonished to “stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel” (Phil. 1:27). What a beautiful idea. Besides, Paul warned of the coming external adversaries which would cause them to “suffer for His sake” (1:29). So they needed to focus on overcoming persecution with God’s help.

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