

EVENING WORSHIP

2 January 2011

Title: **STAND FAST IN ONE SPIRIT**

Text: **Philippians 1-4**

(I) COMBATING PROBLEMS THAT COULD HURT THE CHURCH

1. Problems from within

- a) The problem of harbouring a wrong spirit in service

*"Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife...The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains..." **Philippians 1:15-16***

- b) The problem of inter-personal relationship conflicts

*"I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord..." **Philippians 4:2***

2. Problems from without - The problem of vicious adversaries

*"And not in any way terrified by your adversaries..." **Philippians 1:28***

*"Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!" **Philippians 3:2***

(II) THE CONCRETE MANNER OF STANDING FAST IN COMBATING PROBLEMS

1. In oneness of spirit

*"That you stand fast in one spirit" **Philippians 1:27***

- a) A collective spirit
b) A cohesive spirit
c) A continuing spirit

2. In oneness of mind

*"With one mind..." **Philippians 1:27***

3. In the Lord

*"So stand fast in the Lord, beloved." **Philippians 4:1***

(III) THE CAUSATIVE FACTORS TO STAND FAST AS ONE

1. Having the same concern for the gospel of Christ

a) Walking worthy of the gospel of Christ

*"Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ..." **Philippians 1:27***

b) Standing up for the faith of the gospel

*"For the faith of the gospel..." **Philippians 1:27***

2. Having the same love for each other

*"And this I pray, that you love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment..." **Philippians 1:9***

3. Having the same trust in the Lord's hand

*"And not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. " **Philippians 1:28***

(IV) THE CHALLENGE TO STAND FAST IN ONE SPIRIT

1. To strive together for the faith

*"Striving together for the faith of the gospel.." **Philippians 1:27***

a) Fighting together, not against each other

b) Fighting together with one mind

c) Fighting together in dealing with problems

d) Fighting together for a higher concern

2. To suffer together for His sake

*"For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but to also suffer for His sake." **Philippians 1:29***

a) Faith is more than just saying "I believe"

- b) Faith must cause us to suffer for Him if need be
- c) Faith would cause us to suffer together as one.