

FEAR NOT

REJOICE

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-5

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REJOICE.

Philippians 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;

Q 1: What does it mean to rejoice?

A: Be glad! (Imperative) – 4:4 *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.*

Q 2: When should we rejoice in God?

A: Right now, then do so again and again – 4:4 *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.*

Q 3: How does rejoicing always affect our thinking and behavior?

A: We can maintain a reasonable state of mind that enables us to behave gently...towards everyone. – 4:5a *Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.*

- ‘Reasonableness/gentle spirit’¹ – “not insisting on every right of letter of law or custom, *yielding, gentle, kind, courteous.*”² “selflessness and respect for others.”³
- The emphasis is on behavior rather than merely a cognitive state of mind.

Q 4: What does this look like?

A: In light of your confidence in God, it is *reasonable* to behave graciously towards others.

- Philippians 2:3-5 *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,*

- A lifestyle of anger reveals the need for a new heart – Galatians 5:19-21 *Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*
- Gentleness is an expectation for Christians and a requirement for church leaders – 2 Timothy 3:2-3 *Therefore an overseer [pastor/elder] must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,³ not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.*

Titus 3:1-5a

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work,² to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

³ *For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.* ⁴ *But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,* ⁵ *he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy,*

Q 5: What is the motivation?

A: 4:5b *The Lord is at hand;*

¹ New American Standard Bible, Philippians 4:5 note.

² William Arndt, Frederick W. Danker, and Walter Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 371.

³ Richard R. Melick Jr., "Philippians," in *CSB Study Bible: Notes*, Edwin A. Blum and Trevin Wax eds. (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2017), 1888.