

St. Therese Adult Study Series
Philippians with Father Andrie

Reflection Questions for Chapter 4

Please read Chapter 4 in Philippians and pages 149-152 in the *Philippians, Colossians, Philemon* commentary. Begin with this or another prayer of your choice: "*Blessed Lord, you speak to us through the Holy Scriptures. Grant that we may hear, read, respect, learn, and make them our own in such a way that the enduring benefit and comfort of the Word will help us grasp and hold the blessed hope of everlasting life, given us through our Savior Jesus Christ.*" Your reflections will be shared **May 30th** in your small group. Your group may not get to all the questions. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to those questions most important for your group.

The reflection questions are excerpted from the author's small group study and from the *Ignatius Catholic Study Bible* by Scott Hahn.

1. Paul exhorts two women leaders of the Philippian church, Euodia and Syntyche, to reconcile their differences. How is this message a lesson for church life today?
2. You might summarize verses 4-9 like this: Rejoice, be thankful, accentuate the positive! How is this more than putting on rose-colored glasses?
3. When Paul says, "I have learned, in whatever situation I find myself, to be self-sufficient" (v. 11), how is this something more than stoicism? Hint: re-read verse 13.
4. Paul seems to be thanking the Philippian church for the financial aid that they have sent to him (vv. 15-19). Does financial charity play an important part in your faith life?

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5. Dennis Hamm ends by reminding us “that our daily life is in fact a living out of the offering we make and the mission we receive ...” How do you see life becoming liturgy where “our smallest activities of work or service become an act of worship?” (pg. 152) How can we remind ourselves of this in the moment?

For your personal application:

4: 2-3 What has been your involvement in disagreements in your parish or faith community? How have you tried to resolve them?

4:4-7 Why does Paul—and Jesus, for that matter (read Mt. 6:25-34; Lk 10:41; 12:25-29)—forbid anxiety? In times of anxiety, how might you do more to follow Paul’s advice in v.4?

4:8 Have you tried to practice what Paul recommends in this verse?

What effect has it had on your prayer? If you have not tried to practice it, why not?

What makes Paul’s recommendation more than mere “positive thinking”?

4:11-13 Though Paul does not say that he *feels* content, he indicates that he knows how to *be* content. What would you say is his secret?