The Proximity of the Father
Philippians 4:1-9

Into the Lesson:

Before we consider the importance of getting two of the "stalwarts" of the Philippian church back on track, spend some time considering some of the other women who get a "mention" in the New Testament:

Anna-Luke 2:36-38-
Lydia-Acts 16:11-15-
Priscilla-Acts 18:1-2 & 26-

In the male dominated culture of the first century, how radical would the inclusion of women have been?

How do these women help to confirm what we read in Galatians 3:28-29?

Into the Word:

Take time to reread Philippians 4:1-9 and highlight key words or phrases in this passage.

According to commentaries, the word used in v.1 "stand" is the same military word used in Ephesians 6:11&14. How does this context help to reinforce Paul's concern for unity?

There is no way to know for certain, but it seems Euodia and Syntyche may have been part of the group we read about in Acts 16:11-15. From past sermons, what have we learned about this meeting?

What is the impact of not naming the "true companion" of v.3?

With your finger on this passage (you can use a sticky note if you want), read Psalm 51 and mark the parallel concepts from both passages.

What was the cause of "disunity" in David's situation?

Respond to Sam's question, "If our relationship with the Lord is merely transactional then where is our hope?"

How does I Peter 3:8-17 reinforce Sam's declaration, "Our hope is not that the Lord will be near, it's that **He is near**"

Into Life:

Although written first to the church, how does Sam's "rightful" list translate in our interaction with those outside the church?

True-
Noble-
Right-
Pure-
Lovely-
Admirable-
Virtuous-
Praiseworthy-

How has the concept to "coexist" come to mean something radically different to a large part of our culture?

Compare the world's definition of coexisting with:

Galatians 5:13-15-
II Timothy 3:1-6-
Jude 4-

What impact will, "…living a virtuous life to radiate the love of Jesus", have on those who may be contrary to the things of Christ?

What impact will it have on your own life?

Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:9