

Today's Scripture Text: **Phil 2:1-8**

Harmonious Relationships are Built Upon Common Convictions and Held Together by Uncommon Unselfishness

1. Harmonious Relationships are Built Upon Common Convictions

*Aim for restoration, comfort one another, **agree** with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. **2Cor. 13:11***

*I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to **agree** in the Lord. Phil. 4:2*

2. Harmonious Relationships are Held Together by Uncommon Unselfishness

*Above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. **Col. 3:14***

*I lay down my life...No one takes it away from me, but I lay it down of my own free will. **John 10:17-18** NET*

*"He did not exchange the nature or form of God for that of a slave; instead he displayed the nature or form of God **in** the nature or form of a slave, thereby showing clearly not only what his character was like, but also what it meant to be God." P.T. O'Brien, **The Epistle to the Philippians**, p. 224, The New International Greek Testament Commentary*

Harmonious Relationships are Built Upon Common Convictions and Held Together by Uncommon Unselfishness

This One who lives is the commander of an "ought," yet "is" the very "ought" which he commands. Accordingly, his command to us is not to

follow a law, but to live in harmony with himself, who is present as the law he is, thus, the command of the gospel— to follow—is truly good news. It is about living, “not to an ethic of a person, but rather in harmony with a person who is present and active in his Spirit as the love he is.” “Christian discipleship,” is simply “the disciplined habit of thinking and acting in Christ.” **Geordie W. Ziegler** (in “Is it Time for a Reformation of Spiritual Formation? Recovering Ontology”, Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care, 2018, Vol 2, p.74-92)