**SERMON SHEET 9/22/24**

**Covenant Sunday 2024 - “Living Out Our Covenant Relationship”**

**Text: Philippians 4:1-9**

I. Introduction

II. Some opening reminders

1. Proverbs 19:11
2. Proverbs 20:3
3. Proverbs 10:12
4. 1 Peter 4:8
5. Ephesians 4:3
6. Ephesians 4:31-32
7. Colossians 3:12-15

III. Some helpful exhortations

1. He encourages a common mindset (v. 2).
2. He calls for mediation (v. 3).
3. He reminds them of their common calling (v. 3).
4. He urges them to be joyfully God-centered (v. 4)
5. He appeals for a visible reasonableness (v. 5).
6. He implores them to replace anxiety with prayer (v. 6)
7. He exhorts them to focus on the good (v. 8)
8. He instructs them to just do these things (v. 9)

IV. Conclusion – a final word

**QUOTES**

1. ESV Study Bible:

*This does not imply a drab intellectual uniformity; rather, the Philippians are to use their diverse gifts in an agreeable, cooperative spirit, with a focus on the glory of God*.

2. John MacArthur:

* *Epieikes has a richer meaning than any single English word can convey. Hence, commentators and Bible versions vary widely in how they render it. Sweet reasonableness, generosity, goodwill, friendliness, magnanimity, charity toward the faults of others, leniency, bigheartedness, moderation, forbearance, and gentleness are some of the attempts to capture the rich meaning of [this Greek word].*
* *Perhaps the best corresponding English word is graciousness – the graciousness of humility; the humble graciousness that produces the patience to endure injustice, disgrace, and mistreatment without retaliation, bitterness, or vengeance. It is contentment.*

3. Ken Sande:

*Being gentle in the midst of conflict is a powerful way to breathe grace to others… Such gentleness reflects Christ’s presence and power in your life, which honors Him. It also guards you from speaking and acting harshly, which would only make matters worse. Finally, your gentle behavior may encourage similar behavior in others.*

4. Dietrich Bonhoeffer:

*It is true, of course, that what is an unspeakable gift of God for the lonely individual is easily disregarded and trodden under foot by those who have the gift every day. It is easily forgotten that the fellowship of Christian brethren is a gift of grace, a gift of the Kingdom of God that any day may be taken from us, that the time that still separates us from utter loneliness may be brief indeed. Therefore, let him who until now has had the privilege of living a common Christian life with other Christians praise God’s grace from the bottom of his heart. Let him thank God on his knees and declare: It is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community with Christian brethren.*

**SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE**

* **Phil. 2:2; Phil. 1:27**