

KEEPING IT **12** IN A SPLIT-APART TOGETHER WORLD

PHILIPPIANS: A LETTER FOR OUR TIMES

*Accompanies podcast "Throwing the Fight" - 12/13/20
at www.newdaynw.com/sermons*

Read Philippians 4:1-5

How was conflict handled in your family of origin? Was it avoided? Was there shouting? How is your own "fighting style" the same or different?

The Bible would indicate we aren't supposed to tolerate outright sin (see 1 Corinthians 5). How do we know when we're called to confront someone and when we are called to set aside the argument for the sake of love and unity?

Rejoicing can be defined as "being conscious of God's grace (leaning toward)." Does that change the way you think about it? Where have you recognized God's grace in your life recently?

The Greek word for gentleness in verse 5 means literally "justice beyond justice." In other words, a relaxing of strictly enforcing the letter of the law to preserve the spirit of the law. Can you think of a situation in your own relationships where you've seen an example of that?

These verses highlight the fact that unity in Christ plays out in real, personal relationships. Take a moment to talk to God in specifics about your most contentious relationship and ask for him to "lean toward" you in it.