

Becoming the Gospel of Christ

Philippians 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; **28** And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God. **29** For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; **30** Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear *to be* in me.

- Becoming means that suits or gives a pleasing effect or attractive appearance, suitable; appropriate; proper
- Only-whether I come or not, no matter what happens to me, you be sure to live in a way that honors the gospel
- Conversation speaks of our walk not our talk, our citizenship
- Our conversation is our manner of life
- The question is am I conducting myself in a way that is worthy of the gospel

- We are to walk worthily [Ephesians 4:1](#) I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye **walk worthy** of the vocation wherewith ye are called,
- We are to please Him in how we walk, bear fruit, increase in our knowledge of Him [Colossians 1:10](#) That ye might **walk worthy** of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;
- We are to walk worthy of God [I Thessalonians 2:12](#) That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.
- We have been taught how we ought to walk and please God [I Thessalonians 4:1](#) Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort *you* by the Lord Jesus, **that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God**, so ye would abound more and more.
- Our lives should decorate the doctrine [Titus 2:10](#) Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may **adorn the doctrine of God** our Saviour in all things.
- We should work at being blameless and without spot [II Peter 3:11](#) *Seeing then that* all these things shall be

dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness, [14](#) Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

- The world only knows the gospel they see lived out by us
 - When our lives are no different in holiness, purity etc the world can feel good about not believing
 - We can give the enemies of God cause to mock Him and His doctrine [II Samuel 12:14](#) Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast **given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme**, the child also *that is* born unto thee shall surely die.
- Older believers are to teach younger believers so the Word will not be mocked [Titus 2:3](#) The aged women likewise, that *they be* in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;
[4](#) That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, [5](#) *To be* discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, **that the word of God be not blasphemed.**

- What we believe determines how we behave
- Wrong belief ultimately leads to a wrong life
- Every local church is one generation short of potential extinction
- The greatest weapon against the devil is a godly life and a church that practices the truth
- Paul wants to hear that they are living worthily of the gospel of Christ

I. Stand fast striving together **1:27** **Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;**

A. Stand for the truth

1. We are to stand fast in the faith **I Corinthians 16:13**

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

a) Salvation is by grace not works **Ephesians 2:8** **For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God:* 9 **Not of works, lest any man should boast.****

b) Any other salvation is not of God **Galatians 1:6** I

marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: **7** Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. **8** But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

2. We are to stand fast in our liberty **Galatians 5:1** Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

a) Don't fall into a performance based relationship

b) Don't live by rules that you think make God love you more

3. Stand fast in the Lord **Philippians 4:1** Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, *my* dearly beloved.

4. Stand fast in what the Bible teaches

II Thessalonians 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

B. Stand against sin and wrong

Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*.

C. In one spirit with one mind

1. There should be unity in God's house

2. There should be love **John 13:34** A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. **35** By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

3. Jesus prayed that we would be one **John 17:21** That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. **22** And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

4. We should not let little things cause division among us

5. Love in spite of differences

D. Striving together for the faith of the gospel

1. Playing as a team to reach the world with the gospel

2. We can strive together in prayer **Romans 15:30** Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for

the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in *your* prayers to God for me;

3. Not everyone will play the same role or position but we can work together
4. We can get in the yoke together **4:3** *And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.*
5. We strive together for the faith-what we believe and teach
 - a) So disciple, win souls
 - b) Teach a class
 - c) Help missionaries
 - d) Study to be ready to give an answer
6. Striving is hard work, not just sitting on the pew

II. Not terrified by adversaries **1:28** *And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.*

A. We were warned that we would have adversaries

1. Jesus came to bring a sword and even deny families

Matthew 10:33 *But whosoever shall deny me before*

men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. 34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: **I came not to send peace, but a sword.** 35 For I am come to **set a man at variance** against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. 36 And a **man's foes** shall be they of his own household. 37 **He that loveth** father or mother **more than me is not worthy of me:** and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And he that **taketh not his cross, and followeth after me,** is not worthy of me. 39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and **he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.**

2. All will suffer persecution II Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

3. We are to rejoice when are persecuted

Matthew 5:10 Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **11** Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. **12** Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

4. The world hates us **John 15:19** If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore **the world hateth you.** **20** Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, **they will also persecute you;** if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. **21** But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

5. They think that they are doing a service to God when they harm us **John 16:2** They shall put you out of the

synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

6. Through much tribulation we will enter the kingdom
[Acts 14:22](#) Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.
7. We are appointed to afflictions [I Thessalonians 3:3](#) That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto. [4](#) For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.
8. We are to follow in His steps [I Peter 2:20](#) For what glory *is it*, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer *for it*, ye take it patiently, this *is* acceptable with God. [21](#) For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

9. Don't be afraid [I Peter 3:14](#) But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, *happy are ye*: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

10. We are to be happy and glorifying God [I Peter 4:12](#)
Beloved, **think it not strange** concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: ¹³ But **rejoice**, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. ¹⁴ If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, **happy are ye**; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. ¹⁶ Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; **but let him glorify God on this behalf.**

B. We do not have to be frightened, shocked or scared that we have adversaries [Hebrews 13:6](#) So that we may boldly

say, The Lord *is* my helper, and **I will not fear what man shall do unto me.**

- C. The fact that they adversaries shows that they are lost
- D. The fact that we have enemies to our faith of the gospel is evidence of our salvation

III. The privilege of suffering for Him **1: 29** For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; **30** Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear *to be* in me.

- A. Our first privilege is to believe on Him
 1. There is nothing in me that should give me His grace
 2. He was good to give me the gift of salvation
- B. Paul wanted to be involved in the fellowship of His suffering **Philippians 3:10** That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and **the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;**
- C. They rejoiced that they were counted worthy **Acts 5:41** And they departed from the presence of the council,

rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

D. They sang praises **Acts 16:23** And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast *them* into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: **24** Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. **25** **And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God:** and the prisoners heard them.

E. How did God's people handle suffering **Acts 4:17** But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly **threaten them,** that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. **18** And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. **19** But Peter and John answered and said unto them, **Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.** **20** For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. **21** So when

they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all *men* glorified God for that which was done. 22 For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed. 23 **And being let go, they went to their own company,** and **reported all** that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. 24 And **when they heard** that, they **lifted up their voice** to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou *art* God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: 25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? 26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. 27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, 28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. 29 **And**

now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, ³⁰ By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. ³¹ And **when they had prayed,** the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and **they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.**

1. They stated that they had no choice
 2. They sought out the church to share what had happened
 3. They prayed for boldness and went out again
- F. They fled to preach the gospel in another city [Acts 14:2](#)
But the **unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles,** and made their minds evil affected against the brethren. ³ **Long time therefore abode they**

speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands. ⁴ But the multitude of the city was divided: and part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles. ⁵ And when there was an **assault made** both of the Gentiles, and also of the Jews with their rulers, to **use them despitefully, and to stone them,** ⁶ They **were ware of it,** and **fled** unto Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and unto the region that lieth round about: ⁷ And **there they preached the gospel.**

G. When Paul was warned he simply responded that he was ready to die [Acts 21:11](#) And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver *him* into the hands of the Gentiles. ¹² And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³ Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine

heart? for **I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die** at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁴ And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done.