

# Forfeiting Joy

Philippians 1:25-2:4

## Introduction

*“Euaggelio (our evangel – gospel) is a Greek worde, and signyfyth good, mery, glad and joyfull tydings, and maketh a mannes hert glad, and maketh hym synge, daunce, and leepe for joye.”* William Tyndale

## What’s at stake in losing our joy?

**Joy is not the same as happy.**

**The opposite of joy is *angst*.**

When a Christian loses their joy, they forfeit their witness for Christ.

2 Corinthian 1:24

Philippians 1:25

“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.” John 15:11

1 John 1:4

Romans 14:17

## ***How do we keep our joy?***

- I. ***Strive Together for Purity*** (1:27a);
- II. ***Stand Together in Unity*** (1:27b-28);
- III. ***Suffer Together in Adversity*** (1:29-30);
- IV. ***Serve Together in Humility*** (2:1-4)

## **I. Strive Together for Purity** (1:27a)

*“your manner of life”* from Gk root *polis* meaning ‘city.’

“But our citizenship is in heaven,” Philippians 3:20

**Christians are to behave in a way that is appropriate and suitable as citizens of the kingdom of God.**

Colossians 1:13

## **Holy living.**

“but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,” 1 Peter 1:15

Hebrews 12:14

Luke 1:74-75

2 Corinthians 7:1

“For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.” 1 Thessalonians 4:7

Philippians 2:14-16

## **II. Stand Together in Unity (1:27b-28)**

*“standing firm in one spirit, one mind”* unwavering, uncompromising, not vacillating on sound doctrine.

“For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 3:8

### **We are one people in Christ.**

Galatians 3:26-28

### **Christians are “one body” in Christ**

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (cp. Ephesians 4:1-6).

### **We share a common Enemy**

### **We have the same Commander in Chief**

### **When Christians fail to identify and fight against the real enemy they turn on themselves.**

*“striving side by side for the faith of the gospel”*

Philippians 4:1

*“and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.” (1:28)*

Exodus 14:13-14

Deuteronomy 20:3-5

2 Chronicles 20:15-17

Isaiah 35:4

Isaiah 41:10-13

“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” Luke 12:32

## **III. Suffer Together in Adversity (1:29-30)**

*“granted”* Gk *charizo*; same root as *charis* (grace). Literally, ‘to give or grant graciously.’

John 15:18-19

Acts 5:40-41

1 Peter 2:21

**Recognize that it is an honor, an act of God's grace, to be called to suffer for the sake of Christ.**

"Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted," 2 Timothy 3:12

"that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings," Philippians 3:10

#### **IV. Serve Together in Humility (2:1-4)**

2 Corinthians 12:20-21

"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you." James 4:10

The emptying of Christ Jesus is our ultimate example of humble service (vv5-8).

This is our only hope to keep our joy intact as persecution increases.