

A Practical Picture of Discipleship from Paul's Letter to the Philippians #5

“Do I Understand the Power of Unity with other Christians?”

Philippians 1:27-2:2

The Message in a Nutshell:

If we believe that “to live is Christ”, then we should see a difference in the church and it's people from the every-day world!

Paul strongly encourages:

Live as a representative of God's kingdom.
(Philippians 1:27, Colossians 1:10-12)

Three crucial “Marks of a Follower”

1. Consistency. Paul tells us to “Stand Firm”. (Philippians 1:28a)
2. Strive side by side with one mind.
3. Suffer with dignity. (Philippians 1:29-30)

Four goals for unity and harmony

1. Being likeminded.
2. Having the same love.
3. Having the same spirit.
4. Striving for one purpose.

Food for thought:

Can people see a difference in your life? Do you live a consistent life: the same at home as you do in church? Would your peers or colleagues clearly see what your citizenship is? When you do not see eye to eye with people in the church, are you still willing to walk arm in arm?

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Questions for further thought and study:

1. The phrase 'conduct yourselves' means 'to live as citizens' (v.27). Where is the Christian's citizenship? Explore what that means in terms of our relationship to society. How is it supportive of society? Where is it in conflict?
2. What obstacles do we face in seeking to stand firm in one spirit? How can they be overcome?
3. When good Christians encounter opposition and face it with courage, what is the opposition a sign of, and the courage a sign of? (vv. 15-18,28)
4. List the Christian attitudes in Philippians 2:1-4, and whose attitude we should imitate in verse 5.
5. Read Galatians 5:16-23. What “deeds of the flesh” do you suffer with? How can being “One in Spirit” with your church community help you grow the fruits of the Spirit within you?