

Home Group Helps

Philippians 1:27-30

Joy for the Journey: Gospel-Worthy Conduct

²⁷ Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; ²⁸ in no way alarmed by *your* opponents– which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that *too*, from God ²⁹ For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, ³⁰ experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear *to be* in me.

I. Your Standard (v.27a) – ²⁷ Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ,

II. Your Standing (v.27b) – so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit,

III. Your Striving (v.27c) – with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

IV. Your Sign (v.28) – ²⁸ in no way alarmed by *your* opponents– which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that *too*, from God.

V. Your Suffering (v.29-30) – ²⁹ For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, ³⁰ experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear *to be* in me.

1. Launching Question(s):

- Can you think of a person who you knew when you were younger that brought credit to the institution that he/she was a part of because of their worthy conduct?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Paul has been speaking of the privileges of being a Christian (indicatives). Now he shifts and speaks of the obligations inherent in being a true believer (imperatives).
- What is the connection between our privileges and obligations?
- In his letters, why does Paul always state the indicatives (your standing before God as a true Christian) first and then the imperatives (requirements of being a Christian)?
- What is the danger of reversing the order (imperatives first, then indicatives)?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Paul opens this passage with the command to, “conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.”
- What does the word “Gospel” mean?
- What is “the Gospel of Christ?” (See 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 for help).

- The statement, “Only conduct yourselves...” translates literally in the Greek, “Only let your manner of life *as citizens* be worthy of the gospel of Christ.”
- How does the Philippian understanding of what it means to be a true citizen of Rome help explain Paul’s emphasis on Christians living a life, “worthy of the gospel of Christ?”

4. Reflection Question(s):

- The phrases, “standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith” are military terms related to the expectations of soldiers in battle.
- How does this understanding of “standing” and “striving” help you understand God’s expectations for you in relation to other believers in the spiritual warfare in which we find ourselves?
- When Paul says, “it has been granted for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,” the word translated “granted” is from the same word where we get “grace” (*charis*).
- How is your suffering a demonstration of God’s grace?

5. Application Question(s):

- What is one “unworthy” habit in your life which you can cease doing this week?
- What is a “worthy” habit that you can begin?

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