

The Book of Philippians

“Stand Firm, Strive Together”

Text: Philippians 1:27-30

The Gospel of Christ:

Paul told the Philippians to conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ (Phil. 1:27).

- The term “conduct” refers *to one’s life as a citizen*.
- The city of Philippi valued its Roman citizenship; however, Paul reminded the Philippians that although they were citizens of Rome, their primary citizenship was in heaven, and they should live accordingly (Phil. 3:20).
- Their lifestyle would show their adversaries that Christ has transformed their lives and that they are citizens of His kingdom.
- Our lifestyle influences how we serve as witnesses to the gospel. It can either draw others to Christ or push them away.
- We must live in a way that reflects Jesus Christ, for this is a high calling (1 Peter 2:12).
- Our dedication to Jesus will be challenged during times of persecution and mockery (Acts 5:27-32).

Paul goes on to urge the Philippians to stand firm together for the gospel of Christ.

- In other words, they were not to stand alone in isolation but to be unified together around the common goal of spreading the gospel of Christ.
- This also involved unifying with one another through hardship and persecution (Eph. 4:1-3).
- Unity is one of Paul’s central themes in his letter to the Philippians (Phil. 2:2-4; 4:1-2).
- The armor of God enables us to stand firm (Eph. 6:11,14).

Paul told the Philippian Christians not to be afraid of their opponents (Phil. 1:28).

- Satan and the enemies of God often use fear to intimidate us into backing down from preaching the gospel (Acts 5:40-42).
- The Philippians’ courage was proof of their salvation and of their opponents’ ultimate failure.
- Courage in our relationship with Christ tells the world that we are not only willing to stand for Christ but also willing to die for Him.

- Paul's life was a model for the Philippian Christians on overcoming fear and intimidation (1 Thess. 2:2; 2 Tim. 1:7-8).

Suffering for Christ:

Following Christ is two-fold (Phil. 1:29)

1. Believing in Him (Eph. 2:8; John 1:12).
2. Suffering for Him (2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Peter 4:13).

Paul reminds the Philippians of his own suffering as an example, encouraging them to endure their hardships (Phil. 1:30).

- As Paul depended on the Lord, he wanted the Philippians to do likewise.

How can we stand firm and strive together?

1. Live a lifestyle that visibly reflects Jesus both publicly and privately.
2. Be willing not only to stand for Christ but also to suffer for Him.
3. Do not be intimidated by those who oppose Christ's gospel.

Call to Action:

1. Follow Jesus' example in your daily life (1 John 2:6).
2. Stand for Jesus regardless of the cost.
3. Do not bow to fear when sharing the gospel.