

Living for Christ when
Life gets Hard
Philippians 1: 27 - 30

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Living for Christ

Philippians 1:27-30

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.

Outline

A. Christian Conduct – Be worthy of the Gospel

B. Standing Fast:

1. In one spirit & with one mind

2. In striving together for the faith of the Gospel

C. Display Courage and Fearlessness in times of sufferings

A. Christian Conduct – Be worthy of the Gospel

Conduct – Greek word – Politeuo

Meaning – Live as a good citizen

Christians have their citizenship in Heaven

Philippians 3:20

²⁰ For our **citizenship is in heaven**, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

A. Christian Conduct – Be worthy of the Gospel

Matt. 22:21

21 They said to Him, “Caesar’s.” Then He said to them, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s; and to God the things that are God’s.”

A. Christian Conduct – Be worthy of the Gospel

Romans 13:1-2 1 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

Titus 3:1-2¹ Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,
² to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.

1 Peter 2:13-14¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,
¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

A. Christian Conduct – Be worthy of the Gospel

Our duty as citizens of God's Kingdom and members of Christ's body, the Church, is to be worthy of that citizenship – In a manner **Worthy of the Gospel**.

1. Christians must have a consistency between the professing of their faith and their deeds (actions).
2. Christians must demonstrate day by day the complete superiority of God's truth over the lies of Satan.

The Christian Walk – Eph. 4: 17 – 32

Ephesians 5:1-2

- ¹ Therefore **be imitators of God**, as beloved children;
- ² and **walk in love, just as Christ** also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

A. Christian Conduct – Be worthy of the Gospel

1 Timothy 4:12

¹² Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but *rather* in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

A. Christian Conduct – Be worthy of the Gospel

Philippians 1:9-10

⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment,

¹⁰ so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ;

A. Christian Conduct – Be worthy of the Gospel

2 Peter 3:10-15

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

¹³ But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,

A. Christian Conduct – Be worthy of the Gospel

Philippians 2:15

¹⁵ so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,

A. Christian Conduct – Be worthy of the Gospel

Colossians 3:8-10

⁸ But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth.

⁹ **Do not lie to one another**, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices,

¹⁰ and **have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him**—

A. Christian Conduct – Be worthy of the Gospel

What is the Gospel?

a. “The Gospel” is the Good News that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day

(1 Cor. 15:1-8).

b. There is only one “Good News” of salvation; any other gospel is false (Galatians 1:6-10).

c. The message of the Gospel is...

The Good News that sinners can become the children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, God’s Son (John 3:16).

B. Standing Fast

B1. Must stand fast in one spirit

Stand Fast -

I) To stand firm

II) To persevere, to persist

III) To refuse to give up, and to finish the race

1. **One Spirit** means, that all the members must be born again, having a renewed spirit, being committed to the Lord Jesus Christ, having a heart given over to Him.

IS THAT YOU?

B. Standing Fast

Ephesians 4:1-6

¹ Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,

³ being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

⁴ *There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;*

⁵ *one Lord, one faith, one baptism,*

⁶ *one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.*

B. Standing Fast

Philippians 2:1-4

¹ Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,

² make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

⁴ do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

B. Standing Fast

2. One Mind means, “the single mind,” that all members of a church must have the same goal

A. To praise, honor and glorify God the Father

B. To share the Gospel with others

1 Cor. 1: 10

10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

B. Standing Fast

Ephesians 4: 1 – 3

1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,

3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

B. Standing Fast

Philippians 2: 3 – 4

3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

B. Standing Fast

1 Peter 3: 8 – 9

8 To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;

9 not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

B. Standing Fast

B2. Must stand fast in striving together for the faith of the gospel

I. Christians must remain true to the faith

1 Corinthians 16:13— 13 Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

B. Standing Fast

1 Peter 5:8-9

⁸ Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

⁹ But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

B. Standing Fast

Jude 1:3

³ Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

B. Standing Fast

II. Partnership in preaching the gospel

Galatians 2:9—9 and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so that we might go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

III. Supporting the work of others

Philippians 4:14–16—14 Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction. **15** You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; **16** for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs.

B. Standing Fast

IV. Standing together in adversity

2 Corinthians 1:7—7 and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our comfort.

B. Standing Fast

V. Examples of working together in fellowship

Judges 20:11— 11 Thus all the men of Israel were gathered against the city, united as one man.

Nehemiah 4:6— 6 So we built the wall and the whole wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. **26**

C. Display Courage and Fearlessness in times of sufferings

2 Cor. 5: 10

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

C. Display Courage and Fearlessness in times of sufferings

Rev. 20: 12

12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and ^bbooks were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

C. Display Courage and Fearlessness in times of sufferings

A. Emotional aspects of suffering

Suffering gives rise to inner distress, on account of a sense of injustice, frustration, loss or anger.

Christ himself provides an example of such suffering to believers.

C. Display Courage and Fearlessness in times of sufferings

A. Causes of emotional suffering

1. A sense of injustice

Psalm 119:53— 53 Burning indignation has seized me because of the wicked, Who forsake Your law.

Psalm 82:2— 2 How long will you judge unjustly And show partiality to the wicked?
Selah.

C. Display Courage and Fearlessness in times of sufferings

2. Frustration

Job 19:8— 8 “He has walled up my way so that I cannot pass, And He has put darkness on my paths.

1 Thessalonians 2:18— 18 For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and yet Satan hindered us.

C. Display Courage and Fearlessness in times of sufferings

3a. Physical Loss

Ruth 1:20–21— 20 She said to them, “Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. **21** “I went out full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has witnessed against me and the Almighty has afflicted me?”

C. Display Courage and Fearlessness in times of sufferings

3b. Spiritual loss

Luke 13:28— 28 “In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being thrown out.

C. Display Courage and Fearlessness in times of sufferings

4. Anger

Jonah 4:1— 1 But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry.

2 Samuel 6:8— 8 David became angry because of the LORD'S outburst against Uzzah, and that place is called Perez-uzzah to this day.

C. Display Courage and Fearlessness in times of sufferings

B. Emotional suffering in the Lord's work

Jesus Christ's suffering

Isaiah 53:3— 3 He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

Matthew 26:38— 38 Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me."

C. Display Courage and Fearlessness in times of sufferings

C. God's response to the emotional suffering of believers

1. He comforts them

2 Corinthians 1:3–4— 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **the Father of mercies and God of all comfort**, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

C. Display Courage and Fearlessness in times of sufferings

2. He delivers them through Jesus Christ

**Isaiah 53:4— 4 Surely our griefs He
Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried;
Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten of God, and afflicted.**

C. Display Courage and Fearlessness in times of sufferings

3. Jesus Christ gives them rest

Matthew 11:28–30— 28 “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. **29** “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. **30** “For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

C. Display Courage and Fearlessness in times of sufferings

Paul's example of his suffering for the cause of Christ

2 Corinthians 11:23-28

²³ Are they servants of Christ?—I speak as if insane—I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death.

²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine *lashes*.

²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep.

²⁶ *I have been* on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from *my* countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;

²⁷ *I have been* in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

²⁸ Apart from *such* external things, there is the daily pressure on me *of* concern for all the churches.

Living for Christ Conclusion

- A. Let your walk in Christ be worthy of the Gospel
- B. Let your walk in Christ be of one spirit, one mind and work together in spreading the Gospel
- C. Count it a blessing to suffer for Christ