

Philippians: Gospel Partnership

A Gospel-worthy Life



A life Required for
Gospel-Partners

Philippians 1:27-30 ESV

[27] Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, [28] 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. [29] For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, [30] engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Intro

Boy Scout Oath:

- On my honor, I will do my best
- To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law;
- To help other people at all times;
- To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

Boy Scout Law:

A Scout is: Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

Boy Scout Motto:

Be Prepared!

The oath, law, and motto of the Boy Scouts describe what it means to be a scout.
In verses 27-30, Paul describes what it means to be a GOSPEL-PARTNER

Letter: senders, recipients, greeting, prayer, present circumstances, future plans

Main body of the letter: First line controls the rest of what follows

Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel!

[27] Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ,

"let your manner of life be" – to behave as a citizen

- ^{→ A little Rome} Philippi a roman colony – proud of their citizenship
- Citizens had privileges and responsibilities – playing on their love + loyalty of Rome
- "Live your life as a gospel citizen" or "live out your heavenly citizenship"
- Philippi is a Roman colony, but the church is a heavenly colony

Boy scouts live up to their motto/oath/law

Christians live up to the gospel ~ "worthy of the gospel"

The gospel brings life, and the gospel is the pattern for life

Conduct yourselves in light of who Jesus is and what Jesus has done

- ARE YOU LIVING THE LIFE OF A GOSPEL PARTNER?

ARE YOU LIVING AS A CITIZEN OF HEAVEN? IS THE GOSPEL THE STANDARD AGAINST

WHICH YOU MEASURE YOURSELF? OR, HAVE YOU ADOPTED SOME OTHER STANDARD?

Maybe your answer is "I don't know!" We will find out... but is the gospel your standard?

What is a gospel-worthy life?

[27] ...so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, [28] and not frightened in anything by your opponents.

A life where we are standing firm in one spirit

- We: one spirit, one mind, side by side
- Spirit/spirit – pneuma never "community spirit"
- "hold your group in the Spirit"
- Image of Roman soldiers standing their ground against an enemies onslaught

STANDING/TOGETHER – TWO TYPES OF PEOPLE, LOOK DOWN ON OTHERS, DO NOT NEGLECT EITHER

Further description of standing firm in one Spirit

- 1) A life where we are striving side by side with one mind
 - One mind = unity of purpose (stand firm) and mindset
 - Mindset = an intentional way of thinking about specific circumstances and about life in general
 - Striving together under the same banner: the gospel
 - "Paul is exhorting believers to reflect their status as participants in God's kingdom by patterning their lives after the example of their King Jesus. Such a kingdom-oriented life demands standing firm in the one Spirit by joining forces in their common fight for continued growth in the gospel"
- 2) A life where we are not frightened by our opponents
 - Opponents are likely those who want to impose Rome on them
 - Same conflict as Paul – those who have a Roman mindset
 - Not Frightened - startled like a horse in battle

Does this describe WLAC?

what camp are you in? The stand firm camp or the side by side camp

ITS NOT EITHER/OR

How do people perceive a gospel-worthy life?

[28] ... This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.

- Refusing to be frightened has 2 results:
 - It indicates the destruction of their opponents
 - fear in athletics/boxing
 - It indicates the salvation of the Philippians
 - Fearless posture inspires

“and that from God” – the courage, the destruction, and the salvation are all from God

OUR CORPORATE, UNIFIED, STRIVING TOGETHER - WITH ONE MIND
AND IN THE SPIRIT - WILL HAVE A CORPORATE WITNESS TO
THOSE WHO ARE OPPOSED TO US.

How can we live a gospel-worthy life?

[29] For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, [30] engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

→ WE HAVE A GOSPEL-WORTHY LIFE BY GRACE

The conflict they are in points to 2 things:

- 1) faith in Christ – the reason for their conflict
- 2) suffering for Christ – the results of their conflict

1. Faith in Christ

- Granted = something that is graciously given
- Faith is God's gracious gift
- "...the God-ordained response to the gospel is the God-provided response to the gospel." *God provides what God requires!*
- Faith in Christ is a gift; but, so is suffering

2. Suffering for Christ

This also is graciously given, a gift from God; this is harder to swallow

God is not just sovereign over suffering, but suffering is a "manifestation of his kindness"

Being identified with Christ means suffering

"...suffering on behalf of Christ, just as much as believing in Christ, is a gift of God's grace."

DO WE SEE SUFFERING AS GOD'S KINDNESS? JUST LIKE THE GIFT OF FAITH?

↳ THIS IS TOUGH → I DON'T HAVE THIS YET!

↳ How can you say this, you haven't suffered like me ⇒ Paul has!
⇒ And God knows how suffering is a gracious gift

↳ Unbelievers — this awaits if you put your faith in Christ
— do you want to face it in the loving embrace of God? side-by-side with other believers?

Our conflict

[30] engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

- Paul's conflict was with Rome, with the Roman worldview
- DO WE RECOGNIZE THAT OUR CULTURE IS INCREASINGLY OPPOSING US? ARE WE PREPARED TO STAND FIRM IN THE SPIRIT, STRIVING WITH ONE MIND FOR THE GOSPEL, FREE FROM FEAR?

Application:

1) Understand what it means to live a life worthy of the gospel

- 1) standing firm & steadfast in the Spirit
- 2) having one mind, striving side-by-side
- 3) being unafraid of opposition

2) Understand all of this is unattainable in our own strength: WE NEED GRACE!

- ↳ grace to believe
- ↳ grace to stand firm
- ↳ grace to be one mind
- ↳ grace to strive side by side
- ↳ grace to remain unafraid
- ↳ grace to suffer
- ↳ grace to see our suffering as grace

All of grace!