

Citizens of the Lord Christ

Philippians 1:27-30

- I. Allegiance to Christ surpasses the authority of rulers. 27a

- II. Allegiance to Christ surpasses the autonomy of self. 27b

- III. Allegiance to Christ surpasses the anxiety of persecution. 28a-30
 - A. Unity and courage in the face of opposition to Christ as Lord indicates judgment on those who oppose. 28b

 - B. Unity and courage in the face of opposition to Christ as Lord reflects the saving work of God in those who are faithful. 28c
 1. God's saving work includes not only belief in Christ but the call to suffer in his name. 29

 2. Suffering for the cause of Christ was experienced by both Paul and the Philippian church. 30



Philippians 1:27-30

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.

Citizens of the Lord Christ

May 3, 2020

Open: What responsibilities come with being a citizen of your country?

Read: Philippians 1:27-30

1. The same word translated as “manner of life” in verse 27 is translated “citizenship” in Philippians 3:20. Paul knew the people of Philippi were proud of their standing as citizens of a Roman colony. How should our sense of citizenship in Christ’s Church guide our lifestyle? How is living “worthy of the Gospel” (1:27) different from trying to be worthy enough to merit salvation?
2. In verse 27 Paul makes clear that one aspect of living “worthy of the Gospel” is “standing firm in one spirit.” How would you put Paul’s thoughts in your own words? What steps can we take to increase unity among believers? How can we do this in our current environment?
3. A second aspect of living “worthy of the Gospel” is to be with “one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel” (v. 27). What would it look like for this to be happening in Neighborhood Church—both in the current situation and under normal circumstances?
4. Though the Philippians experienced opposition, Paul does not want them to live in fear of their opponents (v. 28a). How do you tend to react when you encounter spiritual opposition from other people? What truths of Scripture would help calm your fears in such circumstances?
5. In verse 29, Paul says that it has been granted to them to “believe in [Christ]” and to “suffer for [Christ’s] sake.” How would this truth help them to be faithful to the Gospel in their present situation? How does knowing they share the same kind of experiences Paul has had in his service to Christ (v. 30) also help them persevere?

Apply: From Paul’s instruction, what’s one thing you could do to better live in a manner “worthy of the Gospel”? How will you go about doing that?

Pray: Pray that we live lives that reflect the Gospel by striving for unity, working together to advance the Gospel, and making the truth of Christ’s Gospel known without fear.

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