



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PHILIPPIANS: RESURRECTED LIFE

Stand Firm (*Philippians 1:27-30*)

1. Read our scripture of the week: **Philippians 1:27-30** **Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.** What stands out to you from the scripture?

2. Paul's first instruction is that we should **"conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ."** What do you think are practical ways to live a life worthy of the gospel? What level of success do you see in your own life to do this?

In the same jail cell, Paul writes a similar message to the Ephesians and eventually the Colossians. **Ephesians 4:1 - As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Colossians 1:10...live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way.** These three verses have obvious similarities. Take a moment to discuss those similarities as well as differences that enhance the message for us. Assuming that we believe that living a life worthy of the gospel is possible, how committed are you to achieving this goal?

3. Philippians chapter 1 ends with Paul giving three commands to the Philippian church. These commands are as relevant today as when Paul wrote this letter. The first command is to **stand firm in the Spirit**. What do you think it means to stand firm?

You may be surprised to learn that this command is given over 20 times in the New Testament. Stand firm - This command has two words in English, but in Greek, it is only one word. It originated in the military, where soldiers were commanded not to give ground in battle, but to have persistence and endurance to hold their position. To stand firm means to keep the faith, optimistically, believing that God will strengthen you for current struggles and the battle ahead. The opposite of standing firm is to shrink back. To retreat. Tell the story of a time when you truly wanted to shrink back, but stood firm in faith. How were you empowered/enabled to do that?

4. The second command is that we should **strive together as one for the faith of the gospel**.

This command is talking to the entire church. The Church is to be unified, working together, sharing the gospel, and encouraging each other as they go forward in faith. Have you ever had an experience where you felt a sense of unity with other believers as you worked together? What was that like? What do you think stops Christians from working together in unity?

5. The third command is that we should **not be frightened** in any way. As Paul writes this to the Philippian church, they are facing persecution. Paul makes this clear at the end of this section. **28 without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. 29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, 30 since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.** Many people are being persecuted today around the world because of their faith in Christ. Pause now and pray for them, please.

Please do not make the mistake of thinking that if you are not personally being persecuted for your faith, this third command does not apply to you. The command to not be afraid occurs in the Bible over 200 separate times. This should highlight that fear is one of the obstacles to doing God's work and growing spiritually. Have you ever sensed God calling you to do something specific for Him and immediately felt fear? Take a moment to process this with your group.

How do you think we as believers overcome fear?