

Philippians

A GUIDE TO JOY

Philippians 1:27-30 – Live As Citizens Of The Kingdom

May 24, 2020

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ,... Philippians 1:27 (ESV)

Only — Just One Thing

Your Manner of Life — live as citizens

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, Philippians 3:20 (ESV)

How do we live as citizens of God's kingdom?

1. Citizens of the kingdom stand in unity like soldiers.

...so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit... Philippians 1:27a (ESV)

Stand Firm — Hold one's ground while under attack.

One Spirit — In Unity Together

I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. Philippians 4:2-3 (ESV)

..complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Philippians 2:2-3 (ESV)

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. 1 Corinthians 1:10 (ESV)

...eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
Ephesians 4:3 (ESV)

What causes disunity in the church?

1. Selfishness

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Philippians 2:3 (ESV)

2. Undervaluing Unity

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! Psalm 133:1 (ESV)

2. Citizens of the kingdom work together like athletes on a team striving for a goal.

...with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,
Philippians 1:27 (ESV)

Striving side by side — working together as a team for a goal.

What can we learn from these word pictures?

1. The Christian faith is a team faith, not exclusively an individual faith. We need one another.
2. Unity in the church is of greater value than my preferences in the church.
3. Unity can't be maintained without a goal.

3. Citizens of the kingdom should not be frightened like a horse when facing opposition.

...and not frightened in anything by your opponents... Philippians 1:28a (ESV)

Not frightened = Not startled like a horse

If ministry is effective, expect opposition.

But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, because a wide door for effective ministry has opened for me — yet many oppose me. 1 Corinthians 16:8-9 (ESV)

For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? 2 Corinthians 2:15-16 (ESV)

4. Citizens of the kingdom that are united for the gospel give a two-way sign to the world.

...This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. Philippians 1:28 (ESV)

5. Citizens of the kingdom are sometimes privileged to not just believe in Christ but to suffer for the gospel like Christ.

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, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have. Philippians 1:29-30 (ESV)

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church,... Colossians 1:24 (ESV)

...that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, Philippians 3:10 (ESV)

*Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,...
2 Timothy 3:12 (ESV)*

Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. Acts 5:41 (ESV)

How does God use suffering for the gospel for our good?

1. Suffering for the gospel gives us assurance we belong to Jesus.
Philippians 1:28
2. Suffering for the gospel brings us closer to Jesus. Philippians 3:10
3. Suffering for the gospel perfects our usefulness for Jesus. James 1
4. Suffering for the gospel leads to eternal reward.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:12 (ESV)

Life Group Questions

1. What stuck out to you in the message?
2. What does it mean to live as a citizen of God's kingdom, not just a citizen of our country?
3. Where is military language found in this passage? Why did Paul use it? How is the Christian life like a soldier in battle? See 1 Corinthians 16:13, Ephesians 6:11, 13 for examples of the same key word used in other verses. What can we learn about the Christian life from those verses?
4. Where in this passage is athletic language used? Why is the Christian life similar to a sports team? The same key athletic word is used in Jude 3. Can you find that word in that verse? What does Jude 3 teach us about the Christian life?
5. What does this passage teach us about suffering for sharing the gospel? Does this change what you expect to happen when you tell people about Jesus? Review and discuss section 5 of the sermon handout. What did you learn? How will you apply it to your life?