

SERMON OUTLINE Philippians 1:27-30

Behave as Citizens Worthy of the Gospel

INTRODUCTION

A LIFE WORTHY OF CHRIST (v. 27)

The Exhortation

The Look of Gospel-Worthy Citizenship

A CLEAR SIGN (v. 28)

GRANTED TO SUFFER (v. 29)

THE SAME CONFLICT (v. 30)

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of this passage is that suffering associated with being a follower of Christ is a sign of genuineness. The main takeaway is to see Christian suffering as a gracious opportunity to magnify Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What is an exhortation? Review Luke 3:18; Acts 2:40 and 11:23; Hebrews 3:12-14.
3. Reflect on "We act like we think we are": Where is your perspective most regularly out of step with who God says you are?
4. What is the relationship between our earthly citizenship and our heavenly citizenship?
5. Discuss the idea of an "Imperial Cult". Look it up if you have to. What are some ways we see similar systems in political and social structures? Who is seen as the moral authority? What is that system's 'Loyalty Test' (e.g., "Caesar is Lord")? How are dissidents excluded or punished?
6. What are some ways you are personally suffering because of Christ? Who are the opponents of Grace Church?
7. What is the opposite of: Standing firm in one Spirit? Striving side by side for the faith of the gospel? Not Frightened in anything?
8. Which mark of gospel-worthy citizenship do you struggle most with? Where does Grace Church need to grow?
9. Why should Christians suffer differently than unbelievers?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

10. Give some thought and prayer to the relationship between your earthly citizenship and your heavenly citizenship. Review your priorities together as a family, if applicable.
11. Memorize a Scripture passage about who God says you are. (e.g., Philippians. 3:20; 1 Peter. 2:9-10; 2 Corinthians 5:17)
12. Exhort a fellow believer (as appropriate) to stand firm, have faith in the gospel, or take courage.
13. Share the gospel with one person this week.
14. Ask two different people in your family or DG (1) One thing they got from this sermon, and (2) How you can pray for them.
15. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently, with the Spirit's help, as a result of the things you heard in this text/sermon.

PRAYER POINTS

16. Adoration. Praise God for God's gift of your churchmates, His Word and His Spirit to sustain your faith.
17. Confess. Confess where your earthly and heavenly citizenship have been mis-ordered, where you have been double-minded, or where you have given in to irrational fear.
18. Thanksgiving. That God for the privilege of being associated with the name of Christ, even in suffering.
19. Supplication. Pray that Grace Church will stand firm on the Word in the unity of the Spirit, fight together as one man for the faith of the gospel, and be unfazed by pressure or opposition from without.