

Conduct Worthy of the Gospel Philippians 1:27-30

Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, ³⁰ having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear *is* in me.

Introduction:

I don't know about you but I remember the wonderful moments in elementary school when the teacher left the room. Do you remember those? Those were always glorious experiences. I remember those wonderful occasions in high school when the teacher never even showed up, which was even more wonderful, and we had the opportunity to waste time, act irresponsibly or even downright rebellious. We all know about those kinds of times. As a parent, you know how many times you have asked your baby sitter if the children behaved themselves and you got a blank stare and the knowing look and you wondered to yourself, "How is it that they seem to be so much under control when you're around and so out of control when you're not."

Well I think Paul had a little of that teacher/parent apprehension here with regard to the Philippian church. His concern about them, as good as the church is, as deeply as they love him, as graciously as they have acted toward him, as kind and generous as they are, he still knows that in his absence they could begin to

show signs of defecting, signs of spiritual irresponsibility, signs even of downright rebellion. He has had enough experience with churches to know that it doesn't take very long even for good churches to become infected with the wrong things. He is greatly concerned about Christ's testimony at Philippi. He is concerned about the church whether he is there or not. And so in this section, verses 27 to 30, he calls on the Philippians to behave in a way that will match their message, to behave in a way that is consistent. He is calling for integrity. He is calling for spiritual commitment. He is calling for credibility in conduct. And he adds, "Whether I am there or not, this is what I expect of you." This rich little section then hits at the very heart of the need for the church to behave itself in the way God has designed. It's a section on the behavior of the church. We could have entitled it, "The church behaving itself." That is exactly what is in his heart.

Paul says I'm concerned about you. It isn't important whether I come or don't come, whether I'm absent or present. What is important is that you conduct yourselves in a manner that is worthy of the gospel of Christ.

"only." And that is very very important. The first word, only, is in the crucial emphatic position in the Greek sentence, that is it is first in Greek as it is in English. And it stands for one essential issue. Paul has reduced his exhortation to one thing. This is the bottom line in Christian experience. This is the bottom line in church life. This is the essential of worthy behavior, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

The verb there "conduct," the phrase, "conduct yourselves," is a very interesting verb. It literally at its root and its original meaning meant to behave as a citizen of a polis, from which we get the word political, a city state, a free state. You're to conduct yourselves in a manner that would be proper behavior for a citizen. And he's not talking about a

citizen of earth, he's talking about a citizen of heaven, a citizen of the Kingdom of God.

But choosing this word was judicious on his part because of the culture in which he was involved. Let me tell you why. The Roman world had, of course, very strong political formations. Some cities like Philippi were known as Roman colonies. What that meant was that Philippi was a little Rome. It was a small scale version of Rome. They were very proud about that. To be a Roman citizen was the epitome of a human dignity. And though Philippi was nearly 800 miles from Rome, it was very near in mindset life style and attitude. There was great pride about the fact that they were a Roman city state. It spoke of their protection. It spoke of their high esteem in the eyes of Rome. It spoke of their culture. You will remember that even when the Apostle Paul initially went to Philippi in Acts chapter 16, Roman citizenship was an issue. In 16:20, "These men are throwing our city into confusion being Jews and are proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for us to accept or to observe being Romans," they said. Being Romans.

In other words, here are the Philippians claiming to be Romans even though they don't live in Rome. But they had all the rights and privileges of Roman citizenship. And in the Roman colonies the Roman citizens never forgot who they really belonged to. Rome was their mother, if you will. They spoke the Latin language. In Philippi they wore the Latin or Roman dress. They called their magistrates by the Latin or Roman names. They insisted on being stubbornly Roman. And they were deeply into Roman citizenship with all that it meant.

Now what did it mean? Well let me simplify it. To the ancient Greeks the polis, p-o-l-i-s, or state, free state, was not just a place to live. There was tremendous pride in that. And whatever your place was you were proud of, and particularly if it was a Roman colony, the people viewed their polis, their city state as they have been called, as a partnership with other people to obtain the highest good for all society.

There was very little living for oneself. The good of the city, the good of the state was in the minds of the people. The individual citizen, for example, developed his abilities, his talents, his skills, his successes not for his own sake but for the community and the sake of all. Mutuality, inter-dependence, the pride of the state was the issue.

And when he says to the church, "conduct yourselves," he is saying to the church, live as a citizen of heaven.

Philippians 3:20

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Hebrews 12:22 (NASB95)

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,
23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of *the* righteous made perfect,

And then Paul adds, "So that whether I come to see you or remain absent, I may hear about you." My presence is not the issue. Don't depend on me. And I say that to you from my heart. Don't depend on me. There's no reason, Paul says, to wait for me to show up to begin a new level of commitment in the church, there's no reason for that. And I say the same, there's no reason to go on hold until I get back, there's no reason for that. It must be there because this is the church of Christ not because of some man. There are abundant spiritual means of grace available to you as there were to the Philippians, there are abundant spiritual resources available to you as there were for the Philippians. It does not matter whether Paul is there. It does not matter whether I am here. Any pastor wants to know that his people will go on living consistent with the gospel, that the holy truth will be revealed in their lives whether he's there or not.

Acts 20 28

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. ³¹ Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

I. Stand that you stand fast

steko which literally means to be at post in a war. The word is used to refer to a soldier who will not budge from his post, that you will be at your post and not move...no compromise with error, no compromise with sin, an unyielding maintenance of their testimony for the Word of God and the Christ of God. Stand firm, don't move, doctrinally, don't move in terms of conduct from where you are to stand.

Ephesians 6:10 — — —

We stand firm against

- 1.Liberalism
- 2.Darwinians

3. Pragmatism
4. Compromise
5. Arminianism
6. Elitism
7. Politicism
8. Clickism
9. Shallowness
10. Antinomianism
11. Paganism
12. Prosperity preaching
13. Narcissism
14. Dissipation TV World, Gaming World most cant think anymore can't think themselves out of wet cardboard box.

What Would Jesus Have You Do? By Marsha West

“No question, we are a culture that loves to be entertained. Even churches have caught on to the public’s desire for 24/7 entertainment. As a consequence, a large number of evangelical churches are now driven by a need to fulfill this desire in their congregants. And what better way to pack the house in ginormous auditoriums than to offer a 90 minute stage show enhanced with state-of-the-art sound, lighting and video systems.

To boost the mood for the Praise and Worship segment of the service, a large number of churches feature a worship leader and several backup singers accompanied by a live band. I’ve been in services where the Praise Band could be the opening act for Switchfoot!

To help spice up worship, a team of want-to-be actors treat the audience to a short skit that ties in with the message (sermon). As the lights dim and the actors scurry off stage, a hip cool pastor wearing skinny jeans, a logo T-shirt, and a five o’clock shadow ambles out to preach the “new” Good News. Hip cool pastors aren’t your average run of the mill ministers. Some of these guys are genuine entertainers loaded with talent! They’re bona fide performers. True showmen. And some of them are comics! In fact, most hip

cool pastors could walk off the church stage onto a Las Vegas stage and feel right at home. No really, they're that good!

By in large, hip cool pastors' main aim is to see that the folks find God, because once they find Him, they'll find themselves and then...drum roll please....they'll find their real "purpose" in life!

*Now, I'm not attacking Church entertainment per say. I'm simply pointing out that in an effort to grow their churches many ministers adopt worldly methods such as the **church growth** model, a consumer oriented marketing strategy developed to attract the unchurched. And let's be honest. For some pastors it's not about saving souls, it's about becoming the CEO of a thriving "**megachurch**." Trying to attract large numbers of people, some pastors go way overboard. The end result is that the house of God has become like the world.*

Warning: Adopting secular marketing techniques has risks. Often the Gospel becomes compromised when we adapt it to the culture.

II. Sharing

in one spirit,one mind

~~UNITY~~

Philippian 2:1-4

Phil 4:2 I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ And I urge you also, true companion, help these

women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names *are* in the Book of Life.

Romans 12:5 (NASB95)

5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

1 Corinthians 1:10 (NASB95)

10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment

Galatians 3:28 (NASB95)

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

John 13:34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Eph 4:1,

therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

4:13

¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

John 17:20

²⁰ “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

Unity is essential,

Probably the number one complaint I here about the church is that they cant get along

One person wants one thing, and another wants something else which creates conflict.

III. Striving

striving together for the faith of the gospel,

We have Unity for the purpose of the gospel

SunAthleo = Athletics = Team player

When we focus on more than Ourselves and focus on the mission of the church (Evangelism) there is little time for bickering and running off at the mouth.

Retroactive Dysentery of the the Oral Orphus

I you believe that u have done what God expects of you if you come to church, You are wrong, It is much bigger than you.

The Faith the content of the gospel

We are to Preserve and Proclaiming

IV. Suffering

For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, ³⁰ having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear *is* in me.

This is a great confirmation of 2 things

- 1. faith is a gift**
- 2. Suffering is a Gift.**

"He has granted you," ekchariste from charis, grace, "He has graciously gifted you not only with faith but with suffering."