

Phil-04 - Conduct – Phil 1:27-30

So far in Phil – we've looked at Paul's **Circumstances**
we've looked at how he views (or Doesn't view) **Motives**
& last week we clearly saw Paul's single **Priority**

All **these subjects** really lead up to today's subject - **Conduct**

Because ultimately – what we believe **MUST** effect the way we **ACT**

If you are a **Christian today** –
then **Who** you are must effect the way you **ACT**

Christians are *called to live worthy* of their spiritual **position / citizenship**

If you are a Christian, Who you are in Christ is of **no virtue of your own**
you **didn't** earn it, & you **don't** deserve it –

It **has been given** freely to you as a gift –
but *now that you have it* - you are called to live **worthy** of your position

If **you are not** a Christian today –
I pray you would **receive** the gift of eternal life - & *eternal inheritance*
that Jesus Christ offers you **freely** . . .

& it's important that you know – **Conduct** doesn't **Earn** you salvation –
Conduct is **In Response** to the *Free Gift of Salvation*

Let's Pray

Again – **we've come off** of 3 msg's that deal with
how we are to view things in this world . . .

& today we look at **how we view things** (what we believe) –
MUST effect the way we **ACT**

Let's start with just the 1st part of **Phil 1:27**

Phil 1:27(A)

27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, . . .

Last week we ended w/ Paul's **dilemma** about desiring to **be w/ Jesus** –
Or **staying here** for the **benefit** of the body of Christ

& in the **previous Vs's** he says – He's **confident** he's going to
stick around a while for the benefit of the **church** . . .

& then he says ***Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, . .***

& - the **Holy Spirit chooses** Paul's words carefully here
because He uses **a word for conduct** that is not normally used –

The **normal word** would be “*peripatein*” which **LIT** = ‘to walk about’ –

but here He uses “*politeuesthai*” – which **LIT** = ‘citizen’ –
it comes from the word “*poli*” which means – CITY

Now - **the impact** of this **Gk word** in the 1st century
would've **been much greater** that it is today

In the **1st Century** - to say you were a **citizen** of a certain city -
Especially a Roman city – effected every part of your life

It's **laws** governed your **life** – it's **customs** were your **customs** –
it **demanded** your complete **loyalty** –
& there were **very strong ties** between ALL it's citizens

So **Paul is** actually **connecting** our **CONDUCT** – with our **CITIZENSHIP**

The NLT nails this translation of V.27

***Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in
a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ***

Paul **was writing** from the center of the Roman empire (**Rome** itself) –
& he was *writing to a city* that had become a **Roman colony**

To become a **Roman Colony** was a very **prestigious** title –
& it came with *substantial responsibilities*

The Philippians:

Spoke the *language* of Rome

Wore the *clothes* of Rome

Called their *leaders* by Roman Titles

Followed Roman *Law & Custom* –

& **they even called** themselves Romans (**Acts 16**)

The Philippians knew full well what it meant
to conduct themselves worthy of being Roman citizens –
even tho they were not physically in Rome

& that is **the exact thought** the Holy Spirit is getting across thru Paul . . .

We **must conduct ourselves** worthy of being citizens of heaven –
even tho we are *not physically in Heaven* – *do you see it?*

Paul's saying to the Philippians –

“you & I know full well the *privileges & responsibilities*
of being **Roman citizens** – *yet not being in Rome*

How much more should we know the *privileges & responsibilities*
of being **heavenly citizens** – *yet not being in heaven!*

& **that is the parallel** Paul is drawing for us today . . .

if **we call ourselves** Citizens of Heaven –
then we should **conduct ourselves** *worthy* of that citizenship

The laws of heaven must govern our lives

its **customs** should be our **customs** –

our **Heavenly Citizenship** should have our absolute **loyalty** –

& we should **stand arm-in-arm** with ALL of our **fellow citizens** of heaven

Phil 3:20

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

Eph 2:19

19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

We must conduct ourselves **WORTHY** of our Heavenly Citizenship - -
Because there are **ALWAYS problems** in the church when we don't

in the book of **Judges** – as Israel fell away from the Lord we read
“***each one did what was right in their own eyes***”

& **when believers** start doing that – **trouble** is very close behind
(*just like it was for Israel*)

So – **Paul's going to** list **3 requirements** for us to **Conduct ourselves**
Worthy of our heavenly citizenship - & worthy of the gospel of Christ

Let's re-read Phil 1:27-28(A)

27 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(a) and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, . . .

These 3 requirements of Worthy Conduct of the Gospel of Christ
are **an explanation** of what it means to live worthy
of our **Heavenly Citizenship**

Conduct Worthy of the Gospel of Christ

- 1)** Stand Together in Unity
- 2)** Strive Together for the Faith
- 3)** Don't Be Intimidated by your enemies

#1) STAND TOGETHER IN UNITY

Stand fast in one spirit, with one mind (v.27)

To **conduct ourselves** worthy of the gospel –
we are to keep the *Unity of the Spirit In the Bond of Peace*

Eph 4:1-3

1 . . . 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.

Endeavor means – *make every effort – earnestly strive – exert yourself*

Do you think the church is “**Earnestly Striving**”
to *keep the Unity of the Spirit in the bond of Peace*

Or are we more often “**Earnestly Striving**”
to *prove our own point & have our own way ?*

Guys – we have got to get a little better at knowing
when to **draw the line** – & **where** to **pick our battles** . . .

Let me give you an example . . .

- 1) Is believing in Jesus Christ the ONLY way to heaven? YES**
(we can draw that line - & we can stand firm on it)
- 2) Is the rapture going to be pre – mid – or post tribulation? DON'T KNOW**
(we can't draw that line – we can't be divided over it)

Unfortunately – **the divisions** we most often see In the body of Christ
are **over matters** that are either “*unclear*” in the Bible –
or **not even addressed** in the Bible

& very often – **those divisions** take us out of the *real battle*

But IF we will Stand together in Unity – It will cause us to do two things ;

- 1) Stand together against the enemy**
- 2) Strive together for the advancement of the gospel of Christ –**

not our own agenda

So - #1 Worthy Conduct is - STAND TOGETHER IN UNITY

#2) STRIVE TOGETHER FOR THE FAITH

2nd half of V.27 . .

that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

This means we are to be **Edifying** & **Strengthening** one another –
never abandoning *hope*, never *giving up*

that 'striving together' **DOES NOT** mean '*striving between* one another' –

it means striving together **ALONGSIDE** one another -
standing *arm in arm* for the faith - *striving together* in the battle

It means *locking arms* together - & *standing against* the enemy

Let's take **a multiple choice quiz** to illustrate this – OK?

QUESTION

Which is the greatest danger (& does the most damage) to the church ?

- 1) The **temptation attack** of the world ?
- 2) The **spiritual attack** of the enemy ?
- 3) **The fact that** we can't stand together in the battle because we're always fighting among ourselves ?

We **CAN'T stand** against *the enemy* –
until we **CAN stand** *together* for the Faith . . . (amen?)

Conduct worthy of the Gospel of Christ (& of our citizenship)- IS;

#1) - STANDING TOGETHER IN UNITY

#2) - STRIVING TOGETHER FOR THE FAITH

& #3 is found in the beginning of V.28 . . .

#3) DON'T BE INTIMIDATED BY YOUR ENEMIES

Let's read the end of V.27 & V.28

27 . . . 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.

The **NLT** uses the word – *intimidated* –

“Don't be intimidated in any way by your enemies”

If we will **Conduct Ourselves** worthy of our citizenship & calling – then we will have **NO REASON** to be *terrified* or *intimidated* by our **enemies** (*speaking of our human enemies*)

Because if we're *Conducting ourselves* Worthy of our **Citizenship** & **Calling** then **there's nothing** our enemies can do *to actually hurt us*

& so then Paul says (same Vs.) - the way we respond to our adversaries **is a sign** – both to *them* - & to *us* !!

How we respond to our enemies – is to be **both**, a sign of their '**lostness**' & a sign of our '**salvation**' –

The purpose is us being *light in the darkness* – a *city set on a hill* – a *Witness* (a testimony) to the Lord Jesus

Jn 8:12

12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

How are we doing (in general) – in this “**SIGN**” area ?

Are we are clear sign (a light) **to our enemies** that our **salvation** is something **they** really need ?

Are we a sign to them - that they are *lost without the salvation* of Christ that we have

& **Notice** – Paul **doesn't say** here (tho he does elsewhere)
that we are to convince them by "**talking**" to them

This sign is **NOT** about **TELLING** - - this sign is about **SHOWING**

In fact - one of my all time favorite sayings is

"Your actions are speaking so loud I can't hear a word you're saying"

& remember Francis of Assisi said: (tho I don't think he was really a sissy)

Preach the gospel always, and if necessary, use words

It's very important we hear what the *Spirit is saying* to the church here –

If we are **going to be a Sign** (testimony) to *the world* –
to those who speak & act **AGAINST** the church . . .

Then we must **DO 3 things** – **not SAY 3 things** – **DO 3 things** . . .

1) Stand Together in Unity

2) Strive Together for the Faith

3) Never Be Intimidated by our enemies

IF we could stand together like that – **THEN** our enemies would *realize*
we really do have something they **don't have** - & *they would want it*

But **when the church** is acting basically **the same** as the World –

Then **what do we have** to offer those in the world . . .

How can we say we're *better off* than them

So – **Paul** takes this **3rd requirement** for *Worthy Conduct* –

& he **ties it** to being a "**SIGN**" to our **enemies** & to **us** –

& then **he goes** right into the **greatest sign** of our salvation in **V.29**

Phil 1:29 → →

Phil 1:29

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,

As **Paul begins** to talk about a **SIGN** of our Salvation – his **natural progression** is to the subject of suffering . . . **why is that ?**

Because . . . the way we **handle suffering** is the *number one sign* of our **salvation** – *both to our enemies & to ourselves*

Listen – anyone can have the **NORMAL** / **NATURAL** response to suffering –

That doesn't take the *Power of God* living in you – **you respond** like that *in your own nature*

But **when you respond** to suffering **CONTRARY** to your own nature - now **THAT** is a sign (*both to others, & to yourself*) **that Jesus Christ** is actually living **IN** you & **THRU** you

Whenever a Christian carries the *light into the darkness* – they're going to get **some persecution**

2Tim 3:12

12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

We know in the Christian life will come *suffering* – *that's not the question* – **the question is** – How will we *respond*?

What will be our witness to those around us – & **especially** to our *adversaries* – (who may've even had a hand in our suffering?)

The **true sign** (Witness) – that Christ is *Living in Us* – is in **our response** to that suffering

& our *supernatural response* – comes from the *absolute knowledge* – **that God** truly is *with us* – that He will *never leave us nor forsake us* –

& that **by His Spirit** we can face **all** circumstances with the same Priority – that is – **CHRIST**, and **Him Magnified** . . .

That indeed is the real privilege – the real sign – that we are **Conducting** ourselves **Worthy** of Citizens of Heaven – & **Worthy** of the Gospel of Christ

& sometimes our suffering even comes from the hand of **others in the church**, doesn't it?

I'm **currently involved** in some suffering of a Christian Student at the hand of a Christian School Administrator

Actually – *in our culture* – the possibility of you suffering at the hand of those **INSIDE** the church *is greater* than those **OUTSIDE** the church

But **the point** today is – WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE to suffering – is your **Conduct** Worthy of the **gospel of Christ** ?
Is it Worthy of your **citizenship in heaven** ?

When a Christian stands in the face of persecution – with **conduct worthy** of the gospel of Christ . . .

It is **ALWAYS** a sign – both to **the ones** doing the persecuting – & to the Christian himself . . .

It is **always a sign** of the power of God in the Christians life – & it always speaks much **louder** than words

When you see the power of God at work in you in *the face of suffering* –
you know your salvation is *real*, & **Jesus** is *alive* in you

& **when an unbeliever** sees the *power of God* at work in you –
in **the face** of *persecution* & *suffering* . . .

it is **a sign to them** that you have something that *they don't have* –
& the **end result** - *prayerfully* - being their **salvation**

Let's wrap up – Phil 1:29-30

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.

The inference is - the church is having *similar conflict*
as what they saw in Paul, & now hear he is going thru

Paul's suffering was – in part – due to *those in the church* –
both the **Pharisees** - & - the **Self-Seeking promoters**

But **Paul's response** to their persecution was an *incredible sign*
of the **power of God** in Paul's life

in fact, his response to the suffering & persecution
is what "**PROVED**" his testimony

Let me say that again – Paul's **response** to his *suffering & persecution*
is what "**PROVED**" his testimony

How about us – does our **response** to *suffering & persecution*
PROVE that our **Conduct is Worthy** of the gospel of Christ

or does our **response** to *suffering & persecution*
prove that we are really *just like the world* ?

ALL we have to do – to **Conduct** ourselves **Worthy** of the gospel of Christ –
is to **Crucify our SELF** - & **allow Jesus Christ** to *live in us*

Gal 2:20

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

& **if we will** do that – we will easily **live WORTHY** -
of both our **Heavenly Citizenship** – **AND** the **Gospel of Jesus Christ**

Let's Pray