

Phil 1:27-30

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 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.

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,

Conduct - this word has dual meaning - It can be translated as “to behave constantly as citizens” -Believers have dual citizenship.

The word also speaks of your political affiliation.

We get our words

- police, policy, political politics.

The Greek word was all about the polis in the ancient times.

- Polis is a city or a city state,
- a free state.

The word carries the idea of being a good citizen.

Acts 23:1

1 Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."

To be worthy is to balance the scales.

Luke said in chapter 3 to bear fruits worthy of repentance.

Paul is a great example of what it means to walk worthy.

Romans 1:14, “I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians.”

In first Timothy he said that the gospel was committed to his trust.

1 Cor 9:16

16 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!

Col 1:10

10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

The Psalmist said that God knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

1 John 1:6

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

In Isaiah 29, people were professing to follow God.

They participated in the ceremonies and activities of religion,

Their religious worship consisted of man-made rituals, ceremonies, and rules.

Lip sync:

Isa 29:13

13 Therefore the Lord said:

"Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths
And honor Me with their lips,
But have removed their hearts far from Me,
And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,

Paul tells the Philippians to conduct themselves worthy of the gospel:

Phil 1:27

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,

- Paul wanted to see them standing fast in one spirit.

David and Jonathan are a good example of this in the OT 1 Sam 18.

Stand fast - stand your post.

Paul encouraged the believers to "strive together."

Jude said to contend earnestly for the faith.

The term "synathleó;" "striving together" we get the word athletic or athlete from this Greek word."

It's as if putting a team of athletes together.

- The church is a team

2 Tim 2:5

5 And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

Therefore, Paul says to strive together with one mind.

We are to strive 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.

Phil 1:28

28 Don't be intimidated (terrified) in any way by your enemies.

terrified - "ptúroë;" It was used of horses frightened or spooked into an uncontrollable stampede.

Paul in a sense was telling the Philippians

- not to be afraid by the movement
- or of the opposition against them there in Philippi.

Paul said that perilous times will come in the last days.

Peter said (2 Pet 3:3) that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

Today, Knesset members propose legislation to outlaw sharing the Gospel in Israel and send violators to prison.

We are not to be intimidated by our enemies

which is to them says Paul in verse 28 is a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

"proof of perdition" - "éndeixis" meaning "evident token." It's the act of pointing out, particularly with the finger.

John 15:18-19

18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

Phil 1:28 (NLT)

28 Don't be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself.

Prov 29:25

25 The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.

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,

Historically, the church in general has suffered. According to Rev 6 and Rev 20 many will be martyred during the tribulation period.

Jesus said we will have tribulation in this world.

Luke 12:4

4 "And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.

Matt 5:10

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Phil 1:29

For to you it has been granted to suffer for His sake.

None of us would choose to go thru trials.

- But trials of suffering are used to build us up.
- It also helps us to become more sensitive to others.

In Acts 5:41 After their first beating by the Jewish elders, the apostles rejoiced "that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His (the Lord's) name"

John 16:33

33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Phil 1:30

30 having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.

The word "conflict" transliterates as "agony."

Paul used the word when he charged Timothy to fight the good fight of faith. (1 Tim 6:12)

At the end of his own life he said, "I have fought the good fight. (2 Tim 4:7)"

Paul said in Eph 6 that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Paul may have been referring to one of two things or both in verse 30.

- He'd been beaten in Philippi in the past,

Paul said in 1 Thess 2:2

2 But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict. (he had the boldness to speak the truth)

Second: He may have been referring to his present situation in Rome.

- they too were sharing in similar conflicts.

Some of their conflicts came from within.

In chapter 2, Paul encourages the church to be united.

Jesus prayed for all believers in John 17 that we would be one.

Phil 2:1-4

1 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Rom 7:18, For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells;

Rom 12:18

18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

In verse 1 Paul uses the word "if" 4 different times.

The word was used in Rom 8:31 when Paul said, "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

There in Romans Paul used an adverbial conditional conjunction and it can be translated, "Since God is for us, who can be against us?"

The same can be said for the grammar here in Philippians. Since there is any consolation;

- If there is any consolation
- Any comfort of love

- Any fellowship of the Spirit
- Any affection and mercy

This was not a supposition, these were things the church was experiencing.

Then he says in verse 2 to fulfill my joy by being like-minded,

If you do the things mentioned in verse 1, you would fulfill my joy.

In John chapter 3, Jesus was baptizing people in the land of Judea and John at the same time was baptizing people in Aenon near Salim.

John 3:25-29

25 Then there arose a dispute between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purification. 26 And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified – behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!"

27 John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. 28 You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.' 29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.

In those days the people would have understood what John was saying.

The friend of the bridegroom had a job,

- it was to ask for the hand of the bride,
- to arrange the preliminaries of the wedding,
- and to oversee the reception of the bride and bridegroom.

After the friend completed his task,

- his cup of joy overflowed because now
- everyone could hear the voice of the bridegroom
- instead of his own.

Now it was time to listen to Jesus.

Paul told the church to fulfill my joy by being like-minded.

Paul's joy was realizing who Jesus is.

- He wanted the church to settle their differences at the cross.

John 17:13 (Jesus)

13 But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

Four building blocks for unity in the church:

Phil 2:1

1 Therefore if (since) there is any consolation in Christ, if (since) any comfort of love, if (since) any fellowship of the Spirit, if (since) any affection and mercy,

If (since) there is any consolation (encouragement) in Christ.

Consolation is a word used to speak of coming along side of and challenging us to rise to the occasion.

Since the church had experienced the encouragement of Christ in their own walk,

- there was no reason for them to not be united.

The second building block for unity in the church, Paul says:

if (since) any comfort of love, (Christ's love) -

- You should be a different person in Christ than you were in the world.

The love of Christ should be a motivating factor in our life to love others.

Then Paul mentions a third building block for unity:

if (since) any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,

This church was not perfect. In fact,

- there were two things causing problems for the church,
- false teachers outside of the church and division within

He mentions false teachers in chapter 3.

- Paul calls them dogs and evil workers.

In chapter 4 women were fighting

- thus causing division in the church
- and hurting the fellowship.

Why is there division in the church?

Because not all who are filled with the Spirit

- are walking in the Spirit.

But Paul said there could be fellowship of the Spirit.

Finally, he says in verse 1, and this is the 4th building block for unity:

if (since) any affection and mercy,

Lam 3:22

22 Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed,
Because His compassions fail not.

Then Jeremiah says:

Lam 3:23

23 They (God's mercies) are new every morning;
Great is Your faithfulness.

Since God is so affectionate and merciful toward us,

- we should do the same toward others.

2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

If people work toward the same goal,

- it makes it easier to come together in agreement.

So how do the 4 building blocks work themselves out practically? Paul tells us in verses 3 & 4:

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit,

Selfishness and pride will always kill unity in the body.

This is what got Satan kicked out of heaven (selfish ambition and conceit).

Isa 14:13-14

13 For you have said in your heart:

'I will ascend into heaven,

I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;

I will also sit on the mount of the congregation

On the farthest sides of the north;

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,

I will be like the Most High.'

Satan wanted to be greater than God. He was selfish.

Conceit comes from the Greek word "kenodoxia" meaning "empty pride or a desire for praise."

3 John 9

9 I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us. (he was a control freak, he was wrapped up in himself)

Rom 12:3

not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly.

Prov 26:12

12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes?

There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Prov 26:23

2 Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth;

A stranger, and not your own lips.

Phil 3b

but in lowliness (humility) of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

Listen, knowing God makes us humble, knowing ourselves keeps us humble.

Everyone in here is better than you at something!

(1 Cor 10:24, 2 Cor 5:15, Rom 15:1, Job 31:17, 1 Cor 13:5)

Jesus said in Mark 9, If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.

4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.