

The Joy of Living
Philippians 1:27-30
Joy in Striving Side-by-Side

- **The church is united under the banner of the Gospel of Jesus as citizen of the Kingdom of God. (v. 27)**
- **Paul calls the church walk in unity under the Gospel of Jesus (strive side-by-side).**
 - **We are to be of one mind and one spirit (literally one man).**
 - **To strive means to contend (in the Greek) and the addition of side-by-side has the connotation of being shoulder to shoulder working together for a common cause.**
 - **Our common cause is the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus.**
 - **This is not a call to campaign for a particular person, to vote a particular way, to advocate for a particular social or economic policy, or to advance some sort of cultural agenda.**
 - **The call is to advance the Kingdom of God.**
- **The conduct of the church ought to accord with the citizenship of the church. (v. 27)**
- **Paul links our conduct to our unity.**
 - **When we live in accord with our citizenship, we are able to strive together side-by-side.**
 - **This is because we are able to put aside the issues and selfish desires that don't really matter for the good of our common cause.**
- **The unity of the church has effects inside and outside the church. (v. 27-28)**
- **Within the church, unity has the effects of working to assure one another (it helps us to persevere) and of giving of courage.**
 - **Outside the church, unity within the church has the effect of showing the enemies of the Gospel that the cause of the church is just and that they will ultimately be defeated.**
- **The suffering of the church for the sake of Jesus is a gift. (v. 29-30)**
- **This isn't a call to seek out suffering for the sake of suffering; instead, it is a call to faithfully live out our calling (our citizenship) no matter the cost.**
 - **Polycarp (a disciple of John) is an example of one who was willing to suffer for the name of Jesus.**
 - **It is important to note that Paul calls the proclamation of the Gospel and its consequences a conflict.**
- **This is because the Gospel of Jesus Christ is in conflict with "gospel" of this world.**
- **In any conflict, there will be causalities.**