



Daring to Live Differently in a World of Division Philippians 1:19-30

There is also an irony that takes place in our country where the Summer Olympics and a national election take place the same year. Whereas the Olympics unites people, it seems the election divides people.

Here's the Good News: you don't have to contribute to the division! In Christ, you can determine to live differently! Not only is this a different way to live but it's also a far better way! So,

In a world of division, dare to live differently!

Today we'll see how Paul tells people of Jesus in Philippi how to live differently. Philippi was a Roman colony that was highly politicized and patterned itself after Rome; a "mini" Rome. People were proud to be citizens of Philippi! Yet we'll see three ways Paul encourages the church to live differently.

Focus on verse 27 again. The words, "let your manner of life be" was used of being a good citizen. What he is doing here is taking something that is culturally relevant and redefining it around Christ (See 3:20). In it, he describes three ways in which the Philippians can stand in Christ. Here's how they apply to you:

In Christ, you can stand firm (Verse 27).

²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy^[a] of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,
What was Paul hoping to hear about the

Philippian Church?

“... one spirit ... one mind ... striving side by side...”

In other words, be unified around what is most important.

Your life isn't represented by a donkey or elephant, but by the Lamb!

In Christ, you can stand fearless (Verse 28).

²⁸ and not **frightened** in anything by your opponents.

Have you noticed how much fear is involved in politics?

Your lack of fear is a shining light to a world of fear!

In Christ you can stand faithful (Verses 29-30).

Notice this isn't an easy path!

We follow Jesus not because it's an easy way but the only way!

In a world of division, dare to live differently!

So, will you dare to live differently- standing firm in Christ and His mission, not sidetracked by the fear of lesser things, even while recognizing

this isn't the easy way out? What is one small thing you can do to apply these words of Paul in preparation for whatever is ahead?

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