

Living Worthy of the Gospel

As you think about how you live day-to-day, what motivates you? What drives your thoughts and actions? Upholding your reputation? Your family reputation? Friends? Church affiliation? The passage that we are looking at today makes it clear that the highest motivating factor needs to be the gospel – the good news that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and then was raised from the dead on the third day (1 Cor. 15). We are called to live in a way that is worthy of the gospel. Another way to say this is we are called to live in a way that is worthy of Jesus. This is Paul's desire for us as individuals and this is his desire for us collectively as a church.

Read Philippians 1:27-30

1. How would you summarize Paul's core concern for the Philippians expressed in this passage?
2. What does it mean to "conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ" (v. 27)? What insights might Paul's example in 1:12-26 give to this question?
3. What do the phrases, "stand firm in one spirit," and, "with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel," suggest about how a faith community is to live (v. 27)?
4. One aspect of living worthy of the gospel is suffering for Christ's sake (v. 29). What kind of suffering might we expect to face for the gospel?

5. Read Matthew 5:11-12; John 15:20; Acts 5:40-42. What perspective do these passages suggest we should have regarding suffering for Christ?

Steve said:

Last week in our Life Group we were discussing today's passage, unhurriedly making observations and lingering over the text. When we came to verse 29, one person asked, "What kind of God would say that?!?" What type of God would say, "I'm giving you the gift of suffering for Christ's sake"? That's a brilliant question if we really believe that *this* Scripture is God-breathed. What is true about a God who would let His children know that He had given them the privilege of suffering for Christ's sake?

6. How would you respond to this question? What kind of God would give us the "gift of suffering for Christ's sake"? In what way is it a privilege to suffer for Christ?

7. At the end of the sermon, Steve asked us to reflect on this question: *Am I experiencing Jesus so deeply that I am compelled to represent Him in word and deed, accepting any opposition and/or suffering that comes my way?* How would you answer?