

LESSON 5

Philippians 1:27-30



We're All In This Together

OPEN IT

1. If you could go do anything with a group of your best friends, what would it be?

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Day 1

TODAY'S THEME: EXPLORE IT

Read Philippians 1:27-30

2. What standard of living does Paul give the Philippians to strive for?
3. What purpose does Paul say he hopes will unite the Philippians?
4. What attitude does Paul say they should have towards their opponents?
5. What does Paul say about their suffering for Christ?

Day 2

TODAY'S THEME: CONNECTING PEOPLE

Read Philippians 1:27

There are lots of things that can divide people and believe it or not, they aren't all bad. Normally when we think of people being divided, we might think of times when friend groups fell apart because of some sort of drama, or we might think of racism or gender issues. And I'll give it to ya, those reasons to be divided are really bad. But division can be more than those hot topic items or the latest drama at school or church. Sometimes division takes the face of simply having different interests. Maybe you don't hang out with some people because they dress differently than you do, maybe they're in the band and you're on the basketball team, maybe they just like different activities than you do. Who knows what it could be, but I trust you catch my point. Those differences aren't really a bad thing, but they exist and we all have them. As people, we are naturally drawn to people who are similar to us. It's normal!

But here's what Paul knows: as Christians we are all connected in a way that supersedes all those other divisions and loyalties we might have in life - the gospel. He urges us as Christians to stand united in the gospel. Imagine what that would look like - the band students and athletes uniting for one purpose - the gospel of Jesus Christ. How cool would that be to see all kinds of different people in your school come together to reach your school for Jesus. You need the band people because they can reach other band people, you need the athletes because they can reach the other athletes, you need the theatre people because they can reach those who are in theatre. You see? The gospel unites us in Jesus in a way that is far greater than any other group or interest we can have in life.

Paul says this is the sign of our salvation - an unbreakable, united force of people living boldly for the gospel of Jesus Christ. That's something to be part of!

6. The world tries to influence us to divide our lives into two sections: the religious sections and the secular sections. Why does this seem so attractive to us as Christians sometimes and how does it fall short of the life Paul is calling Christians to live?

7. What would it look like for us as a youth group or with other Christian students at your school to "stand firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel"?

8. What things could a youth group or campus ministry at your school do to help develop an atmosphere of unity amongst all Christ-following students?

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here are some things you could pray for today:

Take time to pray for someone who is different than you today.

Day 3

TODAY'S THEME: THINK DIFFERENT

Read Philippians 1:28-30

Paul says that basically it's a blessing that God has given the Philippians an opportunity to not just believe in God but to also suffer for Him! What does that mean to suffer for God? Suffering for the sake of Jesus can look different in many different circumstances. But one thing's for sure here: Paul is not talking about aching legs after practice or other illnesses we experience in life. Paul is talking specifically about ways that we are persecuted because we are following Jesus!

For him, that meant that he was put in prison for his faith. While many Christians around the world may be facing that reality today, in America we aren't worried about coming to church and having the police barge in and take us all away to prison because we follow Christ.

For some people it meant they would lose their lives for their faith in Jesus Christ. This is still happening all around the world today! We have even started to see more people target churches for acts of violence here in America in recent years. But on an average week, you probably aren't scared to go to church or come to youth group because someone is wanting to cause you harm for following Christ. People aren't barging into our homes and killing us because you have a Bible next to your bed.

But just because we may not face persecution to those extremes today doesn't mean we don't face any persecution at all. Paul encourages us to not be afraid of our opponents but to instead stand together boldly for the cause of Christ. We certainly have opponents in our lives that are trying to prevent us from living lives that are "worthy of the gospel of Christ" as Paul says, they just look different here in our context.

9. What might opposition to living lives "worthy of the gospel of Christ" look like in your context of life (ie. where you go to school, where you work, what clubs or teams you're part of, etc)?

10. How has following Jesus caused you to stand out or be different from others at school or your neighborhood? Have you ever been mocked or excluded because of your faith in Jesus?

11. How can we stand with and support Christians around the world who are facing radical consequences for following Jesus?

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here are some things you could pray for today:

Ask that God would give you confidence and boldness to stand firm for Him even if it might mean being mocked or put down by others. Pray for other Christians as well that are facing opposition for their faith..

Note: This study guide was written by Pastors Tim Badal, Mario Arindaeng, and Jeremy Anderson, Village Bible Church. www.villagebible.church