



One in Christ (Philippians 1:27-2:11)

How was Paul able to be so joyful?



Watch Film

One in Christ

- Paul repeatedly writes about *koinonia*. This Greek word means, unity partnership, or togetherness with one another.
- When we love the brothers and sisters in our local church, it shows that we really are followers of Jesus. It also shows the world that the Gospel is true and powerful (Philippians 1:27-28; John 13:35)
- But our unity is under threat by opposition from outside the church (Philippians 1:28).
- Opposition can be frightening. But like faith itself, suffering for Christ is a gift from God (Philippians 1:29). It makes us more like Jesus and proves that we are “co-heirs” with him (Romans 8:17).
- Our unity is also under threat because of pride from inside the Church (Philippians 2:3).
- Our pride is shattered if we consider the humility of Jesus. He came from the highest place, yet made himself the lowest: a slave who came to serve others by dying for them on a cross (Philippians 2:5-8)
- So in the spirit of humility, will we love and serve each other (Philippians 2:2)?

The Gospel of Christ (v 27) | The good news about Jesus Christ. The one Spirit (v 27) | The Holy Spirit. God gives his Spirit to all Christians.



Read Philippians 1:27-2:11



Discussion Questions

1. In Philippians 1:27, Paul says we should conduct ourselves “in a manner worthy of the Gospel.” According to Philippians 1:27 and 2:2, what does this look like?

2. Paul wants us to be “striving together as one for the faith of the gospel” (verse 27). What does that involve? (See Philippians 1:7, 14 , 27.)

3. Where does this oneness come from? (See Philippians 2:1.)

4. Jesus commanded believers to love each other: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, If you love one another” (John 13:35). What might you say to a friend who said, “I love Jesus, but I don’t like going to church”?

5. In Philippians 2:3, Paul says, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition and vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves...” Why do you think pride is such a threat to church unity?

6. If even God the Son made himself “nothing” (2:7), how much more should we- as his creatures! – make ourselves nothing in the service of others? In what ways can we do that this week at our church?

7. What has been most striking for you during this session?



Follow Up: In Philippians 1:27, Paul, encourages followers of Jesus to “stand firm, in the one Spirit, striving together as one.” It is vital that we meet regularly with other believers. This week’s follow up activities focus on that theme.

Sunday: Think over what you heard in church this week. What did you find most helpful?

Day 1: Philippians 1:27-2:11

If you can, memorize this key verse: “Stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the Gospel.” (Philippians 1:27)

Day 2: Colossians 3:12-17

1. When “God’s chosen people” meet together (verse 12), how should we treat each other? (See verses 12-14)
2. Look at verse 13. Why must we forgive one another?
3. Where do you think we can find “the message of Christ” (verse 16)? Practically speaking, how can we “let the message of Christ dwell” in us?
4. Paul says that thankfulness and gratitude for what Christ has done is very important. He mentions it three times (verses 15, 16, and 17). Write down what Christ has done for you and give thanks to him.

Our witness to a watching world is even more powerful when they see how we love each other. Pray that God would give you a deep love for the people in your church.

Day 3: “ And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing but encouraging one another- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Think of one way you can encourage a fellow believer toward love and good deeds and do it this week. Ask God to give you strength, by his Holy Spirit, so that you can be an encouragement to a Christian brother or sister in your local church.

Day 4: 1 Peter 2:9-12

1. How does Peter describe Christians in verses 9 and 10?
2. What should Christians be doing together as a result of these descriptions? (See verse 9.)
3. Why does Peter describe Christians as “foreigners and exiles” in verse 11? (See Philippians 3:20 for a clue!)
4. Look at verses 11 and 12. How should “the people of God” behave?
5. What will be the effect when people see Christians living in this way? (see verse 12.)

Spend some time reflecting on your new status in Christ (verses 9-11). Thank God for these amazing truths. Ask him to give you Christian friends who can help you live a life in keeping with God’s chosen people.

Day 5: Re-read the passages you’ve read this week. Pick a verse you found particularly helpful and write it down below.

Day 6: Get ready for Discipleship Explored by reading Philippians 2:12-30.