

Note: These questions have been prepared to follow the pattern of the series based on the sermon content from Pastor Josh Lilly.

Sermon: Live Worthy of the Gospel — Unified Within, Courageous Without

Text: Philippians 1:27–30

“Only let your manner of life be worthy 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, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. ... For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake.”

— Philippians 1:27–29

Day 1 — Only This: Live Worthy of the Gospel

Read: Philippians 1:27; Ephesians 4:1; Colossians 1:9–10

1. Paul begins with the word *only*. After talking about his own possible death or release, why does he narrow the church’s attention to this one command?
2. The sermon said that whatever happens to Paul—if he never returns to Philippi—the church must still live in a manner worthy of the gospel. How does that “whether I come or am absent” test expose the difference between personality-driven faith and gospel-formed faith?
3. “Manner of life” is civic language. The Philippians knew how to live as citizens of a Roman colony. What does it mean for us to live as citizens of a greater kingdom in ordinary places—home, school, work, and church?
4. If someone who could not see you this month could only “hear of you,” what would they most likely hear? Unity? Courage? Preference? Fear?
5. Where are you most tempted to treat a secondary concern (a good preference, a ministry style, a personal plan) as if it were the one thing that must happen?

Prayer: Father, You have given us one charge that does not change with our circumstances. Forgive us for making many things urgent while neglecting the one thing Paul names. Teach us to live together in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, whether anyone is watching or not.

Day 2 — Unified by the Spirit, Not by Likeness

Read: Philippians 1:27; Ephesians 4:1–6; 1 Corinthians 12:12–13

1. The sermon insisted that the church does not create unity; the Holy Spirit does. Our calling is to maintain it. Why does that distinction matter when people in the body feel different from one another?
2. Worldly bonds look for likeness—same sport, same school, same stage of life. Gospel bonds are created by the blood of Christ. Where have you relied on likeness more than on the Spirit’s family?
3. Paul writes to a church in the same kind of conflict he faced in Acts 16. How can pressure and opposition either weld a church together or pry it apart? Which have you seen?
4. “Ducks fly together.” What does it look like, in practice, for this church to skate in the same direction rather than each member pulling a private rope?
5. Who in the body is hard for you to stand “side by side” with right now? What would maintaining Spirit-given unity require of you this week?

Prayer: Holy Spirit, You have made us one family by the blood of Jesus. Forgive us for treating worldly likeness as if it could hold us together. Keep persecution, preference, and personality from dividing what You have joined. Help us stand firm in one Spirit.

Day 3 — One Mind: The Humility of Jesus

Read: Philippians 1:27; Philippians 2:1–8; Romans 12:3–5

1. Paul says the church is to have “one mind.” In a few verses he will name that mind as the mind of Christ—humility that takes the form of a servant. How is that different from everyone holding the same opinion about everything?
2. The sermon distinguished unity from uniformity. Where have you confused the two, either by demanding sameness or by treating every disagreement as if it were a gospel issue?
3. “We are not bringing our own agendas and priorities and preferences to the table.” Which of your good preferences most easily tries to sit in the captain’s chair?
4. Pastor Josh said the best way to live out the mind of Christ is to move from attender to member so that we get close enough to actually love one another. What distance in your church relationships is keeping love thin?

5. What would it look like this week to ask, “Lord Jesus, Your mind, Your priority, Your ways,” before you speak in a conversation that usually runs on your own instincts?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You humbled Yourself, took on flesh, and gave Yourself for us. Give us Your mind. Lay down our platforms. Make Crossroads a people who fly in the same direction because we are following You, not because we are all alike.

Day 4 — One Gospel, for the Glory of God

Read: Philippians 1:27; Ephesians 2:1–10; Titus 2:11–14; Galatians 2:20

1. The church strives side by side “for the faith of the gospel.” There is not a second gospel for hard seasons. How would you state that one gospel in your own words?
2. The sermon summarized the gospel with the Reformation solas: grace alone, faith alone, Christ alone, Scripture alone, to the glory of God alone. Which of those is most precious to you right now, and which do you most easily forget?
3. “The only thing you added to your salvation was the sin that made your salvation necessary.” How does that sentence both humble us and free us to stand with one another?
4. Pastor Josh warned that a gospel that only says “walk down front” can save and still leave us immature, because it never teaches us that our life is no longer our own. Where has a thin gospel left your discipleship shallow?
5. Why did the sermon say that if we miss that salvation exists first for the glory of God, we will never know what to do with suffering?

Prayer: Father, thank You for grace we did not earn, faith You granted, and a Savior who is the only Mediator. Keep us from a gospel that comforts us without claiming us. Let our salvation serve Your glory, and let that glory teach us how to suffer.

Day 5 — Courage That Refuses Intimidation

Read: Philippians 1:28; 1 Samuel 17:45–47; Isaiah 41:10; Matthew 10:28–31

1. Fear can be a gift when it keeps us from a rattlesnake. When does fear become dangerous for a Christian, according to the sermon?
2. Israel froze before Goliath until a shepherd remembered who God is. What “giant” is currently mocking your confidence in the Lord, and what truth about God have you forgotten?
3. Courage is not the absence of fear, and it is not a wiring quirk. It is not the fruit of a good Monday or a strong worship service. Where have you been waiting to feel brave before you obey?
4. Paul says the church’s refusal to be frightened is a sign of the opponents’ destruction and of the church’s salvation—and that from God. How does God’s verdict, rather than Rome’s (or your workplace’s, family’s, or culture’s), become the last word?
5. The sermon said the world’s “worst case” for a Christian is death, but Paul has already taught that to die is gain. How does that change what courage costs—and what it cannot cost you?

Prayer: Lord, You get the last word. Forgive me for letting fear make my decisions. When intimidation comes, remind me who You are. Give me the courage that trusts Your verdict more than any power that stands against Your people.

Day 6 — Suffering Granted as a Gift

Read: Philippians 1:29; Acts 5:40–42; 1 Peter 4:12–16; Colossians 1:24

1. Paul uses the language of gift: it has been *granted* to the church not only to believe in Christ but also to suffer for His sake. Why is that sentence almost impossible for a me-centered Christianity to receive?
2. The sermon was direct: God brings suffering. How is that different from saying God is cruel, and how does it differ from saying suffering is random?
3. “Am I suffering because of my sin, or because I have stood for Jesus?” Why must that question be asked before we claim a hardship as persecution?
4. “Jesus’ suffering saves. Ours bears witness.” How does that protect us both from hunting for hardship and from treating our pain as if it finished what the cross left unfinished?
5. Faithful suffering is a sign even when the watching world calls it stupid. Where are you tempted to need people to understand your obedience before you will continue in it?

Prayer: Father, You granted us faith, and You also grant Your people the privilege of suffering for Christ. We do not ask for pain, and we will not pretend that every wound is persecution. When we do stand for Jesus and it costs us, make our lives a sign of Your salvation and Your glory.

Day 7 — A Shared Conflict and a People Who Stay Together

Read: Philippians 1:30; Hebrews 11:32–12:3; 2 Timothy 3:12; Galatians 6:2

1. The enemy wants persecution to make you feel isolated and unique. How does verse 30 refuse that lie?
2. Paul says the Philippians are in the same conflict they saw in him. Who in Scripture, church history, or this congregation helps you remember that you are not the first to suffer for Jesus?

3. The sermon argued that one reason to become a meaningful member now is so that you already know who will hold up your hands when the conflict arrives. Who are those people for you—and whose hands are you ready to hold?
4. Looking back over the week, which do you most need the Spirit to form in you: (1) a clearer grip on the one gospel, (2) a humbler mind toward the body, (3) courage that will not let fear decide, or (4) a willingness to suffer with others rather than alone?
5. What one prayer or practice will you carry forward so that, by God's grace, this church becomes known as a people unified within and courageous without?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we are not isolated and this conflict is not new. Surround us with the great cloud of witnesses and with the brothers and sisters You have given us at Crossroads. Make us a church that maintains the unity of the Spirit and stands unafraid before the world—for Your glory and our joy.

Family or Group Discussion

1. Which part of the sermon or this week's readings most challenged or encouraged you, and why?
2. Where is our family or group most tempted to divide over preference instead of striving side by side for the gospel?
3. What fear is currently trying to make decisions for us? How does God's verdict speak a better word?
4. Take time to pray for one another: for Spirit-given unity, for courage under pressure, for anyone suffering for Christ, and for those not yet believing who need the one gospel.

Weekly Practice

Walk in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

- Ask the Spirit each morning to give you the mind of Christ before you carry a preference into the body.
- Speak to one person this week across a difference (age, background, opinion) as a brother or sister, not as a project or an opponent.
- When fear rises, name God's verdict out loud: Jesus gets the last word.
- Tell a trusted member if you are suffering for Christ—or go hold up someone else's hands.
- Write and finish the sentence: "A life worthy of the gospel would change _____ in me this week." Then take one step.

A church that lives this way becomes a people unified within the body and courageous before the world—together—for the glory of Christ.

These questions are prepared to serve personal, family, and small-group study of the Word as we continue the Philippians series. May the Spirit who created our unity, who grants both faith and suffering, and who still indwells His people form in us a gospel-worthy life—for the glory of Christ and the strengthening of His church at Crossroads.