

Remnant Life Church
March 13, 2022
The Church of the Philippians
Part 9
Unity: Standing Firm in One Spirit
Phil 1:27-30

We are at the point in this first chapter of Philippians that Paul shares some news that might be disturbing to the reader – he's not 100% certain that he will ever see them again

- How do you respond to that?
- Should Paul not be filled with faith that he would be released soon unharmed?
- Does this show a lack of faith?
- Not at all
 - Paul simply lives by the prayer that we should all live by
 - *Not my will, but Your will be done (Matt 26:39)*

In light of this, Paul provides a powerful and timely lesson for the people of the Philippian church

- It is powerful because the believers in Philippi needed these instructions since they are in the midst of a Roman colony
- Timely for us because what Paul addresses is exactly the case for the Church today

Here is the message of this passage: The only way you can stand firm when people and circumstances are coming against you – another way to say that is in order for you to stand when others are telling you to sit down – it will be in the unity of believers in one spirit.

- When you try and tell people that Jesus is the only way to salvation – some are going to tell you to be quiet and sit down
- When you stand against the things of this world, this culture, this government because they are in direct opposition to the Word of God – people are going to tell you to be quiet and sit down
- Even in the church, if you disagree with others about how things are done or the direction of the church, how do you avoid causing division or factions in the body of believers?
- By standing united in one spirit

READ – Phil 1:27-30

We already know, from what we read and examined in verses 12-21, that Paul's desire for his own life was to be worthy of the Gospel by how he behaved and acted

- Being in prison has given him the opportunity to minister in a unique way
- He is okay with those speaking against him
- Through prayer and the help of the Holy Spirit he will remain firm in his witness
- Paul speaks of his past, present, and future as secure regardless of the circumstances

In verse 27 he says, *Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.*

- There are several key words and phrases in this verse that are important for us to understand what Paul is saying to the people of the church
- The first is the phrase is *in the manner*
 - That word in the original Greek is *pahl-ee-TOO-oh*
 - There are many variations and tenses of the phrase but at the root is where we get the words politics, policy, and police – those things that have a great deal to do with our citizenship in this country
 - But Paul is not talking about being the citizen of a country, he is talking about being a citizen of the Kingdom of God
- Your citizenship is demonstrated by how you live
 - How it is seen is by your conduct, your relationship and reaction to the policies of your heavenly kingdom
 - That means we must conduct ourselves in a way that clearly demonstrates you are a citizen of the Kingdom of God
 - What policies of God's Kingdom are we talking about?
 - In **Matthew** chapters 5-7, Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, describes the policies of heaven
 - He speaks of the Beatitudes and the characteristics of life that bring blessing
 - He teaches on godly conduct regarding other people
 - He speaks of forgiveness and why you should love your enemies
 - Prayer, fasting, giving to those in need and why you should not worry or judge others
 - These are not just sound teachings they are the blueprint for how we should live
- Paul is telling the people in Philippi, this is how you should conduct yourself, how you should live every day if you are to live in the manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ.