



PHILIPPIANS: PART 3

Pastor Reggie Roberson

WARM UP QUESTION: Have you sacrificed or paid for something that was NOT worth it?

READ: *Philippians 1:27-30 (ESV)*

FOCUS: In this passage, we see that an extraordinary life worthy of the Gospel handles identity, unity and adversity in a way that values Christ's sacrifice.

OBSERVE:

- **(1:27) A life worthy of the Gospel handles identity in a way that values Christ's sacrifice.** We are first and foremost citizens of heaven.
 - Jesus should be the focal point of our identity.
 - Identity is about **how** we define ourselves and **what** we pursue. Our identity in Christ comes first. "Christian" is not an adjective - it's a noun.
 - An identity anchored in anything other than Jesus will leave us bankrupt.
- **(1:27-28) A life worthy of the Gospel handles unity in a way that values Christ's sacrifice.**
 - We are to "strive together" not against each other.
 - Philippi was a melting pot of cultures, situated on a trade route and very similar to the Triangle. The early church in Philippi was incredibly diverse.

- Family fights together, not each other. The unity between followers of Christ is based on our citizenship in Heaven.
- **(1:28-30) A life worthy of the Gospel handles adversity in a way that values Christ's sacrifice.**
 - Like the Philippians, we live in a culture that is "tolerant" of everything except the Gospel and evangelism.
 - Suffering for the sake of Christ is a gift and a privilege. The symbol for life and ministry is the cross. The call to follow Jesus is the call to follow him down Calvary Road.
 - Rather than being afraid of adversity, we are to remain unified and resolute because our lives are grounded in a godly fear/reverence of God.

REFLECT:

- How do you primarily identify yourself? Is your identity in Christ first and foremost or is it an adjective to something else (nationality, ethnicity, political affiliation, etc)?
- Does unity in the Gospel mission characterize your relationship with those different than you?
- How do you respond to the presence or possibility of adversity because of sharing the Gospel?

TAKE ACTION:

- Share with a life group member or friend about anything that you have made or been tempted to make your primary identity other than your identity as a citizen of Heaven.
- Has God prompted you to serve a particular group of people or a place? Is there anyone who can join you? Call them this week and pray together.

PRAY: *Father, change our hearts and, by Your Spirit, help us continually center our identity in our citizenship in Heaven. Help us to live lives worthy of the Gospel mission. Free us from all fear and help us be generous with our lives. Help us to lock arms with our brothers and sisters in Christ so that we can contend together for those in need of the Gospel. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

