

Theme: As citizens of the heavenly Kingdom believers must live worthy of the Gospel, walking in unity with each other and standing with courage when faced with opposition.

I. Intro – Characteristics of a Community

- A. Annapolis – the water/boats; history; USNA
- B. Same is true in many cities
- C. This is true of Philippi – and Paul uses it!
- D. Philippi – a Roman colony (map & history)
 - 1. Octavius/Antonius/Lepidus vs. Brutus/Cassius
 - 2. Decisive battle at Philippi in 42 BC
 - 3. Octavius (Augustus) makes Roman Colony
 - 4. Great source of pride for Philippians

II. As Citizens Live In A Manner Worthy of Gospel

- A. Live as citizens (v27)
 - 1. Main verb of whole section (1 sentence)
 - 2. Heading for whole section 1:27-2:18
 - 3. πολιτεύομαι – live as citizens
 - 4. Of heaven – Phil 3:20
- B. As citizens of heaven live worthy of the Gospel

- 1. Will be developed in 1:27-2:18
- 2. Today: unity & courage before opposition

III. Worthy of the Gospel – Living in Unity

- A. One spirit, one man, together – unity
- B. One spirit – or one Spirit? (unity either way)
 - 1. One spirit – parallel phrase; translations
 - 2. One Spirit - (1Co 12:13; Eph 2:18); Phi 2:1-2; Phil 4:1
- C. One man – an athletic team
 - 1. Athletic terms (v27 - contending, 30 - struggle)
 - 2. A team – striving together (v27 NAU)
 - 3. Military flavor – a unit fighting together
- D. Unity and citizenship – community or ἰδιώτης

IV. Worthy of the Gospel – Courage Before Opposition

- A. Opposition in Philippi (v28, 29, 30)
 - 1. Those who oppose – v28
 - 2. Suffer for Christ – v29
 - 3. Same struggle I had and have – v30 – (civil)
- B. Courage in face of opposition (v27, 28)

1. Stand firm, contending (v27)

2. No fear – in any way! (v28)

C. Encouragement in face of opposition

1. A sign of our victory (v28)

2. God has given this (salvation & all else – v28)

3. Gracious gift from God – belief & suffering (v29)

4. Paul is same struggle (v30)

5. The Gospel will advance! (1:12-26)

V. Conclusion & Summary

A. Do we recognize our citizenship is in heaven?

1. Our real citizenship is in Heaven

2. Do we long for our real home – or just love here?

3. Remember we are an outpost/colony of the Kingdom

4. Do our lives reflect this citizenship?

B. Do we walk in unity?

1. The Holy Spirit produces unity in church

2. We contend as a team – not individuals

3. Do we walk in unity with believers?

4. Are we part of a team – or just floating around?

C. Do we have courage in face of opposition?

1. Do we have courage when others revile us?

2. Will we have courage if persecution comes?

3. Do we see all things as God's gracious gift?

D. Communion – A Life Focused on Christ

1. Focused on Christ & heaven – until He returns

2. Focused on Christ – not each other's imperfections

3. Focused on Christ – not our suffering

Unity and Courage in the Face of Opposition

Philippians 1:27-30

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Communion

Psalm 20:1-5

20 **But our citizenship is in heaven.** And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,
Philippians 3:20

13 For we were all baptized **by one Spirit** into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free-- and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.
1 Corinthians 12:13

18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.
Ephesians 2:18

1 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, **if any fellowship with the Spirit**, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, **being one in spirit** and purpose.
Philippians 2:1-2

I will know that you **stand firm in one spirit**, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel
Philippians 1:27

1 Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should **stand firm in the Lord**, dear friends!
Philippians 4:1