

Philippians series - part III

Standing together in Christ

2nd July 2017



Series Recap

Study series on Philippians

Last Sunday was Part 2:
To live is Christ, and to die is gain

Phil 1:12-26



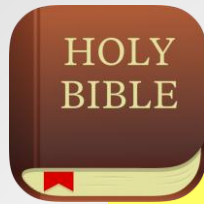
Starting Point

We are **called** to **advance the**
Gospel and **live** for Christ



Digging Deeper

Like Paul we will **suffer for Christ**
as we struggle to lead lives
centered on God



Biblical Context

I will know that you **stand firm** in the one Spirit, **striving together as one** for the faith of the gospel **without being frightened** in any way **by those who oppose you**. This is a sign to them that **they will be destroyed**, but that **you will be saved**—and that by God

Philippians 1: 27 – 28 (NIV)



Point of Interest

The message here to **stand firm** (from the Greek *stēkete*) is a recurring theme in other letters

1 Corinthians 16:13, Galatians 5:1, Philippians 1:27,
Philippians 4:1, 1 Thessalonians, 2



Key Point

Paul presents this as a
very real and **tangible conflict**



Digging Deeper

Aware of the struggle of faith,
Paul is providing specific
advice to the church



It's all Greek to me

The repeated use of inclusive language

Koinonia: translated as partnership, communion, participation, and fellowship

In context: sharing a common faith, partnership, sharing a ministry, sharing material possessions.

Philippians 1:5, 2:1; 3:10; 4:14 – 28



It's all Greek to me

Paul doubles down on the inclusiveness

Synathlountes: to strive together,
being like-minded, being one in spirit, of
one mind

Philippians 1:27, 4:3



Point of Interest

Historical context: the early church actively persecuted, still establishing its identity, beliefs and doctrine



Question

What is the here lesson for the
modern Christian?



Exploring an Idea

Let me tell you about my best
mates and brothers in Christ



Key Point

We discovered we had a shared life purpose: to bring Glory to God & share His Gospel



Question

What is the here lesson for the modern Christian?



Answer

As followers of Christ we are to be unified in purpose



If we are not so different, then
what stops us from being
united?



Biblical Context

Consider Paul's advice to chase humility, and to pursue the perfect example that Christ has provided

Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Philippians 2: 3-4 (NIV)



Question

What stops us from being united?



Answer

Sin, in particular pride.



Connecting Ideas:

Heed the warning and be on
guard against pride



Question

How is this message relevant
to the modern church?



**If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.
(Mark 3:25)**



Question

How is this message relevant to the modern church?



Answer

Consider that a soldier on duty stands alert long before the enemy arrives



Connecting Ideas:

Take **encouragement** from all that
we have in Christ



Remember the broom:
bound together,
united in struggle,
and **aligned in**
purpose

We must avoid
becoming like an
broken & ruined
toothbrush





Application

Call it out when you see it
Building 429

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.



Application

ENGAGE with one another,
SHARE about your journey
ASK for prayer
OFFER support



Application

Listen to the language of our liturgy and **be encouraged** by the repeated use of we/us/our

Remember that we **strive and struggle** in this journey **together**



Next Week

Part IV: Transformed by Christ

Phil 2:12-30