

THE **crossing** **small groups**

Dave Cover | Philippians 1:27-30 Sermon Discussion Participant's Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To live in a way that shows that following Jesus is worth it in all areas of our lives.

Icebreaker: If you could change one detail about your life what would it be and why?

Discussion:

Transition: Paul continues to encourage and exhort the Philippians on how to live with joy. Streaming from his previous thoughts and elevating his position within the Roman guard and empire, Paul begins to press on specific buttons that would have challenged the Philippian Christians in their day. It is important for us to remember that Philippi, while 800 miles away from Rome, was still very much a Roman colony. The undertones of Paul's letter strike right at the heart of how Christians are to live when outsiders. What follows is practical, yes, but also a heart check.

Read:

[Philippians 1: 27-30](#)

²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. (NIV)

²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, (ESV)

²⁷ Just one thing: As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ. (CSB)

1. Dave mentioned that studying passages in different translations is an important bible study tactic. What differences do you notice from the passages above? What is helpful by looking at all three together?
2. How would the citizens of Philippi have heard the words "good news" and what do they mean?
3. Is this a different understanding of gospel for you?

4. If so, what would you have said the gospel was before?

The gospel of Jesus Christ is a subversive way of declaring that Jesus is the true King, not Cesar. The good news of Jesus Christ has been done for us, its not anything we can attain or earn, it's a victory that God already won. In his sermon Dave outlined three ways Paul exhorts the Philippians to live worthy of the gospel of Christ.

5. What does it mean to live worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ?
6. What are some ways you have seen other people live a life worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Stop and Pray

Praise Jesus for these people! Take a moment as a group to say a prayer of thanks. Thanking God for the example of someone who imitated God and lived as a sign pointing to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

7. We are often tempted to live for lesser gospels, gospels that lead us to create division instead of unity, gospels that cause us to shame other Christians, and ultimately lead us to look down on other Christians. What are some lesser gospels you have or currently are tempted to live for?

Read:

[Philippians 1:28](#) | 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.

8. What types of persecution frightens you the most?

THE **crossing** **small groups**

Dave said that when the Philippian Christians lived unafraid, standing for the gospel of Christ amidst cultural and government pressure, their calm confidence would be a sign to those around them.

9. What are proper ways of standing unafraid for the gospel?

10. In what ways do you need to be encouraged to live for the bigger picture and the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Sharing and Prayer:

Spend time praying through each person's area of need from the question above. If you didn't get to the question, then use the prompt below for prayer time.

Below is a prayer guide based on Philippians 1:27-30. You can choose one section or have someone pray each section as you pray.

Prayer Guide Based on Philippians 1:27-30

1. **Begin with Praise and Surrender**

"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ..." (v. 27)

- **Focus:** Start your prayer by acknowledging God's greatness and His call for you to live a life that reflects His love and truth.
- **Prayer:**
"Lord, I praise You for Your goodness and grace in my life. Help me to live in a way that reflects Your gospel, no matter what happens. I surrender my actions, words, and thoughts to You, that I may honor You in all I do."

2. **Pray for Unity and Strength**

"...stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel..." (v. 27)

- **Focus:** Ask God for unity with others in the faith and strength to remain firm in your belief, especially during difficult times.
- **Prayer:**
"Father, unite me with my fellow believers in love and purpose. Help us to stand firm in the Spirit and strive together to advance Your kingdom. Strengthen me to hold fast to my faith, no matter the trials I face."

3. **Seek Courage in the Face of Opposition**

"...without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you." (v. 28)

- **Focus:** Ask God for boldness and courage in the face of challenges, trusting in His protection and guidance.
- **Prayer:**
"Lord, when I face opposition, give me courage. Help me not to be afraid but to trust that You are my defender. Let my faith be a sign to others of Your power and salvation."

4. **Acknowledge the Gift of Faith and Trials**

"...it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him..." (v. 29)

- **Focus:** Thank God for the gift of faith, even in times of suffering, recognizing that trials are a part of following Christ.
- **Prayer:**
"Thank You, Lord, for the gift of believing in You and for the strength to endure suffering for Your sake. Help me to see my trials as opportunities to grow in faith and draw closer to You."

5. **Ask for Perseverance and Faithfulness**

"...since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had..." (v. 30)

- **Focus:** Pray for perseverance through struggles, following the example of faithful believers like Paul.
- **Prayer:**
"God, as I go through struggles, help me to remain faithful. Give me perseverance, just as Paul endured for the sake of the gospel. Let me be an example of faithfulness to others."

6. **Close with Trust in God's Presence and Power**

- **Focus:** End your prayer by reaffirming your trust in God's presence and power in your life.
- **Prayer:**
"I trust in You, Lord, and believe that You are with me through every challenge. Guide me, strengthen me, and let my life bring glory to Your name. Amen."