

Worthy

What we do matters. What we say matters. Every action. Every word. It all matters.

I believe that Jesus created each of us on purpose, for a purpose. And His plan for **each** of our lives is important. Each one is as important as the next. No one here has a purpose that doesn't matter.

Some are called to more prominent roles in life. Some are called to more behind the scene roles. But the Holy Spirit works in us to make those different roles work wonderfully toward the same goal, the same mission...to advance the Kingdom of God on this earth.

In Philippians, Paul gives some instruction on how you can do your part:

Philippians 1:27-30 (NKJV)

Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, 28 and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. 29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, 30 having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.

Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ

Let me ask you something...are we "worthy"? Do we deserve the gospel?

Did we deserve to have Jesus die a brutal death on a cross as payment for our sin? Did we deserve to have our lives substituted with His? NO, of course not!

We are not worthy but His sacrifice says we were **worth it**.

See Jesus' death to pay the price for your sin, the Father's acceptance of that sacrifice which was proven by Christ's resurrection...it all says that in God's eyes...you and I have great worth, great value...

And Paul's words here tell us to let our conduct...the things we do, the way we act, let them be worthy of the gospel.

Act like the new creation that you are in Christ Jesus!

Have you ever seen a little kid, just old enough to walk, and they are walking around whining and crying saying their feet hurt? And as a parent you might have ignored them

for a while or just dismissed what they were saying like it's no big deal...they're just whining.

And then all of the sudden, you look down and they have their shoes on the wrong feet! And so you say "oh I'm so sorry!" and you switch them around and all of the sudden, those tears dry up and a smile returns to their face...their shoes are on the right feet and now they can act right

That's what our lives are like...we start out with our shoes on the wrong feet (spiritually speaking) and when we meet Jesus, He switches them around and puts them on the right feet and it changes something in us! We can act how we were intended to act all along!

Let your CONDUCT be worthy of the gospel.

Jesus said **you** have great worth and value. And He showed it on the cross. And you have a responsibility to show that this **good news, the gospel of grace**, has great worth and value.

So everything we do...ought to shout that Jesus says **I am worth it all...**and I say **He is worth it all!**

This word conduct in the Greek means to behave as a citizen. But not just as a citizen, as a good citizen that brings honor to the one to whom he belongs!

We see this in the Olympics. All of those athletes are representing their country...Most of them, you don't know by name, you just know who they represent.

Not only are these athletes the best in the world, they are honored to represent their country. They wear their colors, their flag, proudly. They want the world to know who they belong to and they are not ashamed of it.

And I love the USA! I am a proud American. I'm also blessed that God's plan for my life was to be born here and live here in a free land. And as much as I love this country...Can I tell you a secret?

This is my secondary citizenship. I'm a dual citizen. America is not number one for me. Heaven is! I'm a citizen of heaven!

And with my life, I want to bring honor to the One that I belong to...JESUS!

It's why what I do matters. What I say matters. Every action. Every word. It all matters.

We should take great honor in our heavenly citizenship. It was purchased at great price through our Savior's blood, and this reality should never leave our minds. As citizens of heaven we must have a new language, different clothing, and different attitudes.

It's like Paul is saying, "Whatever happens in life, whatever you go through, always remember your citizenship. Always live as citizens of heaven."

Be Worthy - Behave like a citizen of heaven...how are some ways we do this?

Stand fast in one spirit

Know **whose** you are! And if you know **whose** you are...Know **who's** with you.

We are in a day and a time where churches are compromising the gospel in order to put butts in seats and money in plates. All the while watering down the truth so they don't hurt feelings and keep the people coming back.

That's not behaving like a citizen of heaven...we ought to be standing fast...that means holding our ground on what the Word says...in One Spirit...the Spirit that testifies of the truth.

1 John 4:13 (NKJV)

By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

John 15:26 (NKJV)

"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

Being a citizen of heaven is not just about standing your ground, it's about standing your ground in one spirit...the Holy Spirit!

It's not just about having a voice...it's about being a voice for Heaven!

Stand together...the devil brings division in the church...how? By appealing to your flesh. Your wants. Your preferences. Your ideas. Your style. These things begin to become the priority for you, your mission, and if the pastor or leadership thinks otherwise, you cause problems or leave the church....what went wrong?

You weren't standing fast in one spirit...and you sure weren't letting your conduct be worthy of the gospel. Church, we're here to please Jesus, not man.

Paul says if you can stand fast in one spirit...then...and only then...you can stand fast in:

One mind

If you're on the same page spiritually...believing, knowing that this is GOD'S church, and those are HIS leaders, and we're all HIS people submitted to HIS Spirit...

NOW we can think alike...because we have the same Spirit leading and speaking to all of our hearts...all of our souls...

And if you can think alike, you can strive together for the faith of the gospel!

Think about what Paul has laid out for us...

Let your conduct be worthy of the gospel

- Act like a citizen of heaven
- Stand fast in one spirit
- Then one mind
- Strive together

Do you know what we, the church, could do if we could strive together?

- This means "try hard"
- This means "contend, battle"
- This means "make strenuous effort toward your goal"

Back to the Olympics, what are all of the US athletes trying to do? Win the most events. Single events. Team events. Easy events. Hard events. New events. Old events. Just win one event at a time.

TRY HARD in every one. CONTEND every time. Make a strenuous effort toward the goal...

And what is the goal...to see the USA with the most medals at the end of the games.

But no matter what happens...hold up that flag that you represent. Do it proudly, knowing you did all that you could do as a citizen.

That's a picture of what it should be like for the church.

Strive together. Try hard together. Contend, battle together. Make strenuous effort together. **Not against each other...TOGETHER.**

Because THAT is how WE win the most medals at the end of the day. By working together. By rooting for each other. By lifting high the name of Jesus in every single event like those athletes lift their flag...

What do you represent?

If it's Jesus then let it be known...that you will be an opponent of division. Choose to strive together.

FOR THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL!

This is it church...let your conduct be worthy of the gospel...so you can strive together for the faith of the gospel!

Do you believe in the gospel?

I mean the full gospel?

Salvation in Christ alone
New life, free from sin
Baptism in the Holy Spirit
Power to overcome
Victory over the enemy
Freedom
Healing
Deliverance

If you believe in that gospel...then ACT LIKE IT! Let your conduct show it!

That we are in this together, forever, and there isn't a thing we won't do to destroy and drive out satan every time he tries to bring division through those doors!

Paul said DO NOT in ANY WAY be terrified by your adversaries...

Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV)

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

It's not people that are the problem...it's the enemy. And really he's not even a problem if WE realize we represent heaven, and we stand fast in one spirit, one mind, and strive together for the gospel!

What we do matters. What we say matters. Every action. Every word. It all matters.

Can we start to ask ourselves before we speak, before we act:

Is this worthy of the gospel?

Was it worth Jesus going to the cross so we could strive against each other? I think not.

Was it worth Jesus going to the cross so we could strive TOGETHER for the faith of the gospel?
He thought so.

And if He says it's worth it, you better believe it was worth it.

Call for repentance for disunity, selfishness

Call for unity, first by one Spirit, then by one mind

Let our conduct be worthy of the gospel.