

Philippians 1:27-30 (NLT) - Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News. ²⁸ Don't be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself. ²⁹ For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. ³⁰ We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of it.

Philippians 2:1-2 (NLT) - Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? 2 Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

We are invited to move past passive participation and into the power of purposeful partnership.

Study Guide

This last Sunday we spoke about Membership, and how it is one way we share in the power of purposeful partnership. When you look back at your life, what is a time where you felt a strong sense of belonging and partnership? Maybe you were a part of a sports team? Maybe you campaigned for a cause? Maybe you shared a trip or an experience with others? What was that like for you? How did it feel to be a part of something like that?

The culture around us in Canada tends to have a low value on belonging to a group. People are concerned about joining others because it might be seen as weakness, or simply because they don't want to be held accountable for the group or others in the group. But there is so much good to be found in coming together around a common cause or purpose.

Take a moment to read Hebrews 10:23-25. As you read about how we are called to support each other, what stands out here? How are we supposed to support and engage with each other? How can we "motivate one another to acts of love and good work"? What would be a practical way to do that?

When the Bible talks about the life we lead in serving God, it does it all within the context of being in community together. A community that builds each other up. A community that comes together in unity. A community that perseveres together. Take some time to evaluate whether you feel that connected right now. If you do, what do you think helps you feel that way? If not, what could you do to build that connection.

Take some time to pray for each other that God would draw us closer together and closer to Him.