

January 25/26, 2003

Study Questions
Experiencing Joy: A Study in Philippians
Live Worthy of the Gospel
Philippians 1:27-30
Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. When someone is trying to convince you of something, what gives him/her credibility and what causes him/her to lose credibility?
2. What is necessary for Christians to have credibility in the eyes of unbelievers in our culture, and what causes Christians to lose credibility? What are the areas we need to improve on to be credible with the unbelievers around us?
3. How effective will we be in accomplishing the mission if our message doesn't ring true because our lives don't line up with our message?

Bible Study

1. Read Philippians 1:1-26. Review the highlights of what you've learned so far in Philippians.
2. The word "only" in 1:27 means of first importance or above all. What is of first importance?

How has Paul modeled this according to 1:12-26?

How does this fit with his description of himself as a "slave of Christ"?

3. The word "conduct" in 1:27 is a word that means to be a citizen. The people of Philippi had a saying: "live worthy." This was in reference to living worthy as a colony of Rome. What does it mean to live worthy as a citizen of heaven?

What behavior would you consider to be unworthy of the gospel? Why?

4. In what ways will you have to die to your own preferences, desires, comforts and opinions to live worthy of the gospel?

What is the difference between expecting life to be fair and living worthy of the gospel?

5. What does it mean for all Christians to be "of one mind, striving together"? The term translated "striving together" is the word from which we get our word "athlete." In other words, we're teammates in the mission of advancing the gospel. Does this just mean people in our local church? Does this just mean people we agree with?

What is the implication of the statement "of one mind, striving together" concerning our relationship to all other Christians?

6. As a general rule, is the church in our community (all believers) characterized by “being of one mind, striving together”? Why or why not?

What must each of us do to “conduct ourselves worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ”?

What about our local church here at LBC?

7. What should we expect as believers according to 1:29,30?

How does this line up with Peter’s words in I Peter 1:6,7?

8. Go back and review how Paul and Silas modeled this attitude in Philippi from Acts 16. What might they have done differently if their motives were to avoid suffering?

What things are we guilty of doing to avoid suffering for the gospel at times?

Does suffering sound like it is something optional for those conducting themselves worthy of the gospel? Why or why not?

Application

1. Is there anything in your life that is not “worthy of the gospel” that needs to change? What can you do to change that behavior? Share this area with your group and ask them to hold you accountable for the necessary change.
2. What practical things can you do to promote unity in the local church as well as the church in our community?
3. Are there things you are doing to avoid suffering for Christ’s sake? To conduct yourself worthy of the gospel, you must accept that such conduct includes suffering. What does this mean to you? Where do you expect to suffer?
4. Pray for one another that we might each truly conduct ourselves worthy of the gospel.