

A GOOD CITIZEN

Philippians 1:27-30

God commands worthy conduct of Christian citizens

I. CONSIDER YOUR STATUS (27-28)

A. IS YOUR CONDUCT WORTHY? (27a)

1. Your State: Worthy?
 - a. God commands worthy conduct
 - b. Literally: Be worthy in your conduct
 - c. Our command is to continually, habitually act in accordance with our Christian status
2. The Standard: The gospel of Christ
 - a. Live like the gospel of Jesus has affected and infected you!
 - b. See Eph. 4:1 and Col. 1:10
3. Application: We have a responsibility that requires us to live and act in a way that is recognized as Christianity!

B. IS THE NEWS NOTEWORTHY? (27b-28)

1. The Conditions
 - a. Whether Paul is there or not
 - b. True virtue is when we do right and no one (except God) watches or sees it
2. The Considerations
 - a. Are you standing?
 - Determined not to give ground ... a defensive position - See Phil. 4:1 and I Cor. 16:13
 - b. Are you striving?
 - Moving ahead, pushing forward ... an offensive position
 - c. Are you stable? Unterrified and confident
 - d. Application: What can you do this week to strengthen your Christian testimony?
3. The Companions
 - a. Is there unity? One spirit and mind
 - b. Is there community?
 - 1) In mission: The faith of the gospel > See Acts 2:38, 4:10-12 and John 14:6
 - 2) With teamwork: Striving together > See Acts 2:44-46

II. CONSIDER YOUR FAVOR (29-30)

A. THE GRANTOR (29a)

1. These are God grants
2. These are generous gifts from God granted on behalf of Christ to privileged Christians

Over please >

B. THE GIFTS (29b)

1. Belief in Christ: What a blessing!
 - God graciously provides for you and invites to you through Jesus Christ
2. Suffering for Christ: What a surprise!
 - Suffering is the sure sign of God's favor because He has tempered you for this and is now trusting you in this. - See Job 1:8, Acts 5:40-42 and Heb. 11:35-38

C. AN INSPIRATION (30)

1. Paul as a model for ministry
 - a. The same conflicts, battles and struggles cares, concerns, contests
 - b. Paul was not just talking "suffering theory," he lived as a suffering Christian citizen.
2. Paul as an encouragement in ministry
 - a. Hope and encouragement come through an awareness of another's endurance
 - b. You can do this!

CONCLUSION:**As a Christian citizen ...**

1. Are you rightly representing the gospel? (27-28)
2. Have you readily received God's favors? (29-30)

**God is calling Christians to spiritual integrity demonstrated
by a life of consistent godliness.**