

STAND FIRM TOGETHER! No Lone Ranger Christianity

Sunday, November 17, 2019 — Philippians series -- Msg 10 — Pastor Andrew Coleman

Philippians 1:27-30

English Standard Version (ESV)

27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, 28 and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. 29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, 30 engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Review:

Paul calls the Philippian believers not to compromise their manner of life in Christ. (Only!)
Paul calls the Philippian believers to live as citizens of heaven in Philippi.

SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS for Living in a Manner Worthy of the Gospel:

The Overarching Command: To STAND FIRM

A military term used to tell a soldier not to give up ground. No retreat. No wavering.
(1 Corinthians 16:13; Galatians 5:1; Philippians 4:1; 1 Thess. 3:8; 2 Thess 2:15)

1) Christians are to stand firm in UNITY as a church body. vs 27

3 references: in one spirit, with one mind, striving together.

The Philippian church apparently had some struggles with unity.
(Phil. 2:1-3; 2:14-15; 4:2)

4 Things to know about the importance of Unity:

1) Unity is a very big deal to God.

A - God's own nature or being shows us perfect unity in Himself.

The triune nature of God: three in one!

B - God sacrificed Himself for our unity with Him.

C - Jesus's command and great prayer was for our unity with each other.

John 13:34; John 17:20-23

2) Unity is the godly design of every relationship.

(God loves it. Satan hates it.)

3) Unity is peaceful, joyful and productive.

4) Disunity is stressful, frustrating and destructive.

5) Our unity with each other is our greatest witness to the world.

John 13:35

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.



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Romans 12:4-5; 16

4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

Galatians 3:27-29

27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

2) Christians are to stand firm working hard together. 'striving side by side'

This is a single word athletic term... *synathlountes* syn = with athleo = compete

Christianity is a team sport, NOT an individual sport.

No 'Lone Ranger Christianity'. No American individualism.

We are a team with many different gifts and roles that works together to win the prize.

3) Christians are to stand firm for the faith of the Gospel.

Not for ourselves. Not for our kingdom. Not for our sub-cultures.

We stand firm for the glorious, Christ-centered gospel of God's salvation.

Our purpose is His purpose. Our goal is His goal. Our message is His message.

2 Corinthians 4:4-6

4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers so they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For we do not proclaim ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 4:1-4

*1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2 **preach the word**; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.*

WHERE ARE YOU STANDING?

In unbelief?

In faith?

Alone?

With the Body of Christ?