

Worthy; Philippians 1:27-29

I. Manner of Life

- A. "To be a citizen, to conduct one's life" ¹
- B. How we live our life dictates who we are
 - 1. A certain person
 - a) Let someone live rent free after their family was murdered
 - b) Paid all college costs for a Latino boy when he found out his mother was terminally ill
 - c) Sent a plane to fly a sick Jewish boy for special care when no other airline would accommodate his medical equipment
 - d) There are many more stories similar to these
 - 2. This person seems like a genuinely good person (I don't know his religious affiliation but his works are there for all to see)
- C. I have often talked about how we live as citizens of the kingdom
- D. Paul addresses the same concept to the church in Philippi

II. Standing Firm

- A. Philippians 1:27 (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,
- B. "With one mind" can be seen as "as one man" — the church stands together as one
- C. "To be firmly committed in conviction or belief" ²
- D. Committed — The Army of the Potomac
 - 1. They would make a 2 week forced march — stragglers were threatened at sword point — and be thrown right into battle
 - 2. They ate hardtack (a dry hard biscuit) — when not in battle they may have had some salt pork and coffee
 - 3. They were in battles that lasted quite some time (days)
 - 4. They faced each other in lines and took turns shooting at each other — then they would engage in hand to hand combat
 - 5. After one battle in 1862, 5,000 men lay dead in an area of two square miles — it is said that you could walk on dead bodies for 100 yards and never touch the ground
 - 6. "While there willingness to endure these physical deprivations is almost incomprehensible, one has to admire the emotion toughness of the troops. They believed in their cause, whether Union of Confederate, and they committed their lives to it. Most believed they would not survive the war, but that was of little consequence." ³
- E. We commit ourselves to a cause we know to be true, just, and divine — The cause of Christianity
 - 1. Yet, some might say we are not as committed as those who are willing to die for their cause
 - 2. Jesus was willing to die — it was His death that should cause our commitment to Him
- F. Committed — Breakfast with the pig and the chicken

III. Striving Side by Side

¹ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 846.

² *Ibid*, 944.

³ "Commitment to a Cause." *SermonSearch*, Mar. 1994, www.sermonsearch.com/sermon-illustrations/901/commitment-to-a-cause/.

- A. “Contend, struggle along with”⁴ — Labor side by side (Philippians 4:3)
 - B. We are not striving, struggling alone
 - C. 1 Corinthians 12:14–20 (ESV);¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many.¹⁵ If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body.¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body.¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell?¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be?²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.
 - 1. While we are different people, we are one body connected through Christ
 - 2. We are all working together toward the same goal — striving, struggling along with each other to stand firm in our faith: working here in the Kingdom
 - D. “The team effort supplied by the church would present the gospel to the world. Together the members also would explore the implications of the gospel in each other’s lives.”⁵
 - E. This life is a struggle
 - 1. Paul struggled with his own desires
 - 2. Romans 7:21–23 (ESV);²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.
 - 3. Our struggle is made much easier by the fellowship of the church
 - 4. We have many different professions, nationalities, personalities, etc.
 - 5. I’m sure there are several people here that would fit in your circle
 - 6. By virtue of the family of fellowship we can call on each other for help anytime (and we should)
 - 7. Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 (ESV);⁹ Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.¹⁰ For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!¹¹ Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone?¹² And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.
 - F. Striving side by side, together, we can overcome anything this life will throw at us through our firm faith in Jesus
- IV. Not Frightened
- A. Philippians 1:28 (ESV); 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.
 - B. “To let oneself be intimidated”⁶
 - 1. Conducting sweeps of a Launch Facility in the missile fields — striking a SAM (Security Alert Message)
 - 2. Often times it was our Flight Chief checking to see if we were doing our jobs
 - 3. If we had done everything as we’re supposed to there was no reason to be intimidated or frightened

⁴ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 964.

⁵ Richard R. Melick, *Philippians, Colossians, Philemon*, vol. 32, *The New American Commentary* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1991), 90.

⁶ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 895.

4. We cannot let the devil intimidate us and tempt us into relinquishing our faith (not standing firm) or stop working together (striving side by side)
 5. Divide and conquer — a technique often used by police when interrogating suspects
 6. When we are side by side and standing firm nothing should frighten us!
- C. Fear is being afraid of something that hasn't happened yet
 - D. "I have been through some terrible things in my life, some of which actually happened."
Mark Twain
- V. Worthy
- A. "A manner corresponding to" ⁷— in our case, the Gospel of Christ
 - B. We must stand firm
 - C. We must strive together
 - D. We must not be frightened

⁷ Ibid, 94.