

Commentators describe these next two sections as the core of the Pauline ethic.

Philippians 1:27 – “Only”; “This one thing”; “This is the primary thing” ... “Live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ”

1. “whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you ... ”
(integrity)
 1. What are the things that challenge our integrity? What is our opposition to living consistent lives in public and in private? Luke 8:16-17;
 1. What is the gospel of Christ?
 1. John 3:16-21; James 1:26-27; Galatians 5:16-26
2. “I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.” (unity) John 13:33-35;
 1. Paul is striving to draw us together in one spirit. In Philippians 1:15 – Paul is calling out the sin of envy, rivalry, selfish ambition
 2. 2:3 – “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourself.
 3. What are the things that divide us? What are the things that divide the church? How do we intentionally embody/incarnate love for one another?

Philippians 1:27-30 (*The Message*)

27-30 Meanwhile, live in such a way that you are a credit to the Message of Christ. Let nothing in your conduct hang on whether I come or not. Your conduct must be the same whether I show up to see things for myself or hear of it from a distance. Stand united, singular in vision, contending for people’s trust in the Message, the good news, not flinching or dodging in the slightest before the opposition. Your courage and unity will show them what they’re up against: defeat for them, victory for you—and both because of God. There’s far more to this life than trusting in Christ. There’s also suffering for him. And the suffering is as much a gift as the trusting. You’re involved in the same kind of struggle you saw me go through, on which you are now getting an updated report in this letter.