

# STAND TOGETHER

## PHILIPPIANS 1:27-30

# COMMUNITY GROUP

### OUTLINE & SUMMARY

#### Introduction

After the introduction of vs 1-11, Paul begins a long section calling the Philippians to unity. He would only do that if he'd received word it was being challenged. And indeed, in chapter 4, he calls two people by name to cease their division.

This is a timely exhortation because division is a major threat for us. Societal trends and the political environment have polarized people into camps. In some cases, it's seen as virtuous to refuse to even speak to those outside one's group. Paul's appeal to unity reminds us The Gospel trumps all ideologies, opinions, and "policies" of man.

Verse 27a • "Conduct" = One's behavior as a citizen. "Align your behavior with the Gospel which has made you citizens of God's Kingdom"

Verse 27b • Stand Fast / Striving Together  
"Striving" = *athleting* > "Team-up & stand fast"

Note that Paul doesn't weigh in with his immense wisdom on various disputes. He instead sets the priority of preserving unity before them.

Verses 28-30 • Standing together confidently in the face of opposition is a powerful testimony to the power of the Gospel.

It is a privilege to not only believe in Christ, but to suffer on His behalf.

### FOR THE GROUP

#### Warm Up

Where and when were you raised? How has that influenced the way you are today?

Are you a person of strong opinion? What's required to see you change your mind?

Why is the unity of the followers of Christ an essential priority?

What ought we do to protect it?

What ought that look and sound like?

How is well-coordinated teamwork better than individuals going it alone?

It would have been easy for Paul to end disputes with his apostolic authority. He chose instead to USE the reality of disputes to impart a far more urgent lesson >> *It's more important to be right with one another than to have right opinions.*

What are the practical implications of this?

How does our unity transform opposition into a testimony of belong to Jesus?

How is suffering for Christ's sake a privilege?