



Pastor Shawn

Philippians 1:27-30

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Ambassador of the Gospel

"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have."
Philippians 1:27-30

Ambassadors / Citizens of Heaven: "conduct yourselves in a manner" vs. 27 or "live as citizens of heaven" vs. 27 (NLT). *πολιτεύομαι*: to fulfill one's duty; to conduct oneself

The Greek city-state (*polis*) was central to identity - citizen" is "polites"
Greek: To live rightly (*politeuō*) meant fulfilling one's duties as a **responsible** citizen.
Roman: To live with dignity & privilege. A sense of **pride**.

"Conduct worthy" of the gospel – to live as citizens of the gospel with responsibility and a sense of pride. How we respond to our circumstances communicates who we are.

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us"
2 Corinthians 5:20

- We represent Jesus in a foreign world.
- We speak on behalf of God – carry His reputation & message
- We embody the gospel / kingdom culture (values, beliefs, experiences, story)
- Living like Jesus will bring suffering / hatred / persecution

How we respond to suffering in this world is demonstrating our belief in the gospel.
"Stand firm... without being frightened... For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him."

"Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will deceive others and will themselves be deceived." 2 Timothy 3:12

Conduct Worthy / Living the Gospel – Philippians 2- expressed in Relationship

- **Servant / Humble**

"Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves."
Philippians 2:3

- **Compassion**

*"... as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, **compassionate hearts**, kindness, humility, meekness, and **patience, bearing with one another** and, if one has a complaint against another, **forgiving** each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."*
Colossians 3:12-13

- **Unity – Getting along**

"Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose."
Philippians 2:2

? **Questions:** Have you experienced being hated for following Jesus? How does living like Jesus in our culture today make you feel like a foreigner? How do you try and reflect the heart of Jesus in your relationships? What are the challenges? What are the joys?