

Philippians 1:27-28: *Only let your conversation [lifestyle] be as it becometh [complements] the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; And in nothing [And do not be] terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition [for such fearlessness on your part is a clear sign to them of their impending destruction], but to you of salvation, and that of God.*

1. Introduction

- a. Gospel of Jesus Christ joins people of vastly different backgrounds
- b. Gospel unifies them with one common God, common mission, common hope, and a common future
- c. Three evidences of gospel's power:

2. One Spirit

- a. True unity through Holy Spirit from God the Father
- b. Holy Spirit gives us common birth through salvation into single family
1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.
- c. Holy Spirit indwelling (lives inside) each believer
1 Corinthians 6:19-20 What? know ye not [don't you know] that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.
- d. Be filled with Holy Spirit for daily living
Ephesians 5:17-18 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;
- e. Walk together like early church
Acts 2:46-47 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat [food] with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.
- f. Church are people taken from all over known world

3. One Mind

- a. Common source in our Bible for our relationships with God and with each other

2 Timothy 3:16-17 *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof [showing us when we are wrong], for correction [showing us how to fix what is wrong], for instruction in righteousness [showing us how to consistently do right]: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

- b. Common attitude towards our common God – fear of the Lord (like small child towards their loving father) with reverential respect & awe

Psalms 111:10 ***The fear of the Lord** is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth forever.*

- c. Common desire to please God.

Galatians 1:10 *For do I [Paul the Apostle] now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should [would] not be the servant of Christ.*

- d. Common direction toward common future; living to honor God and trusting Him exclusively with our lives.

Philippians 3:14 - 16 *I [Paul the Apostle] press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect [mature], be thus minded [think this way about how you live your life]: and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you [God will work in your life to help you mature]. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing [Let those who are already mature agree as we live our lives before God].*

- e. Common example – Jesus Himself:

Philippians 2: 5-8 ***Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:** Who, being in the form of God [was truly God], thought it not robbery to be equal with God [did not come to earth to rule as God]: **But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men** [showed us how God would live if He dwelt among us]: **And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.***

- f. Common desire to worship God and to know Him;

Philippians 3:10 ***That I may know him** [Jesus], and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*

- g. Common message that we have accepted and that we share with others

Romans 1: 16 *For I [Paul the Apostle] am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ:** for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek [Gentile].*

4. One Faith Like all oarsmen in boat rowing together to move boat through the sea, so Christians are to work together to move the Gospel to everyone.

- a. Faith must be personal – each person must have The Faith in themselves before they can share it with others

1 Timothy 4:16 *Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.*

- b. Faith must be developed

Jude 20-21 *But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*

- c. Faith must be corporate (in the local church)

Titus 1:9 [The Pastor must be] *Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.*

- d. Faith must be real – in our hearts and heads

Acts 20:32 *And now, brethren [the pastors from the area of Ephesus], I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified*

- e. Faith will be seen when tested (Philippians 1:28 [above]).

- i. Tested by the Devil

1 Peter 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

- ii. Tested by the world

1 Peter 5:9 *Whom [the devil] resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions [tests, problems] are accomplished in [happen also to] your brethren that are in the world.*

- iii. Tested by persecution

2 Timothy 3:12 *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

5. Conclusion

- a. Do not be surprised when you are scorned or rejected by those who don't know Christ

1 Corinthians 2:14 *But the natural [unsaved] man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned [understood only through God's Holy Spirit revealing these things to us].*

- b. World cannot understand why we don't conform to them. Our lack of fear is one way we testify to them.