

Philippians 1:27-30 Standing Strong in a Hostile World

Walt Tutka, a middle school teacher at a public MS in NJ was standing holding the door of his classroom open as students filed in to class.

A)When the last student entered – Mr. Tutka uttered the phrase the last shall be first.

B)After class the student asked him about the saying – where it originated from

1)Mr. Tutka – said the Bible – and pulled his out – and showed the student the verse

C)The Student said – he didn't own a Bible – so Mr. Tutka gave him his.

1)And for that gift of giving a student a Bible Mr. Tutka was consequently suspended from his Job

Joe Kennedy a football coach at Bremerton High School in Seattle Washington was suspended from coaching- Why?

A)Sex Scandal – did he get rough with a player?
Take a Bribe? Cheat?

B)No he took part in a prayer circle with players on the field after a game.

C)The District said he could have his job back only if **he agreed to not pray after games.**

Timothy Keller the highly respected Author and Pastor of Redeemer Pres church in NY – was selected to receive an award from Princeton Univ

A)The Kuyper Prize for Excellence in Reformed Theology and Public Life

B)That was until there was a public outcry from students who objected **to his Biblically based views on Homosexuality.**

1)Princeton ended up rescinding the Award

What do all of these stories have in common? The growing hostility toward Christians in America

A)Now I know – what we are beginning to experience here in America does not compare to what Christians did in 1st century

B)Where they were **regularly and brutally martyred** for their faith – by the Romans

C)And I know that it also doesn't compare with what Christians **are facing in other countries today.**

1)**Some where they can be killed for their faith**

D)And yes I know that America is still the safest country in the **world to be a Born again Christian**

1)But the acceptance of many in our society has changed toward Christians

E)Hostility toward Christians is growing!

Article – “Not in my backyard” who Americans least want as neighbors.

A)At the Top of the list at 13% was religious Fundamentalist

B)In some people's eyes – **We are bad for the property Values.**

C)Now here is the reality –

1)in many places and cases it has been the wrong actions of a few Christians that has tainted how we are viewed by MANNY!

D)Put simply – **Many professed Christians don't ACT LIKE Jesus** – they ruin it for the REST OF US.

E)So here is **the question** we want to answer today:

How do we stand for Jesus in a World that is growing hostile toward Jesus.

1)How to live in a manner that **properly REFLECTS** Jesus – to culture that doesn't like Him -

B)The Apostle Paul – insight in our text today -

²⁷ Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

²⁹ For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, ³⁰ having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear *is* in me.

Now it is at this point that we see a little change in Paul's letter at this point.

A) From V.1-26 much of this first chapter has focused on **his imprisonment**

B) But in V.27 his focus shifts to **their predicament!**

1) He mentions words like **adversaries, suffer, and conflict**

C) Paul is identifying the growing tension:

1) He uses words that are often associated with War and battle.

So we want to consider – 4 qualities that we see in our text – How to live in a way that properly reflects Jesus –

A) how to stay Strong – amidst the growing Hostility that people in our society have toward Jesus and Christians

B) How can we **RIGHT** the miss conceptions –

C) See 4 qualities in our text – think of them as four legs to a Stool

1) Each leg adds a little more stability to the whole

#1 Consistency: V.27²⁷ Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ

A) Some Bibles use the phrase for conduct – your manner of life.

B) The word used in the Greek – is **your citizenship** – carries the idea of being a good citizen.

C) We noted in our very first study how Paul – spoke the Philippian believers as having a **Dual residency**

1) V.1 He writes to the saints who are in Christ Jesus and who are in Philippi

That is true of everyone of us here who is a Christ Follower

A) You are IN CHRIST – also in Vista

B) We have a dual residency: In Chapter 3:20 Paul will refer to **our citizenship in Heaven** –

C) Citizens or two spheres – this one / that one

1) Have a Manner of life that HONORS BOTH – places

PAUL SAYS – let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel

A) Worthy = **to balance the scales**
or to weigh as much – Picture scales

B) Your life on one – the gospel on the other.

1) Your manner of life – your conduct would match the gospel. – **WEIGH AS MUCH**

C) **What does Gospel mean?** Good News – God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son, whoever believe in Him – not perish... life.

The world was lost – Separated from God because of sin – rebellion – against God's laws – DAMNED

A) Instead of leaving us in that position- God put a Rescue mission in order –

B) **HE LOVED US** – He would give His son... pay the price – Rescue us from Sin – guilt – **DAMNATION**

C) That is **good news** Friends – **THERE IS HOPE!**
1) **HOPE DEALERS – NOT DOPE DEALERS – HOPE DEALERS**

Some Christians don't reflect that – they are always down and negative- Always complaining!

A) They are always disgusted by people – that God loves

B) **Ever watch some Christian TV-** Turn off the sound and just watch

1) **They look so mad** – turn the sound back on.... God loves you

2) **The picture doesn't match the MESSAGE**

What Human being most reflected that message of the Gospel? Jesus!

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

A) Full of grace and truth! –

1) That is how we live in such a way where our lives weigh as much as the gospel

B) **Consistently display grace and truth!**

1) Paul – Speak the truth – but do it in Love

C) So what does that look like? Here is what it doesn't look like

1) You don't ignore your new neighbors because they are Homosexual

D) You don't show up to their house with pie to welcome them to the neighborhood –

1) **and then tell them** – you don't agree with their lifestyle

Be welcoming – get to know them – treat them as people who have been made in the image of God – HE LOVES – HE DOES -show them love and grace.

A) And after you have got to know them – when the setting is right and time is right – **speak the truth** –

B) This is what God says about your lifestyle!

C) Why did the worst of sinners enjoy being around Jesus? **They genuinely knew – HE LOVED THEM**

1) The Polar opposite of the religious leaders of the day –

2) **Persona – being above everyone else – better than everyone else**

D) The religious leaders of the day – acted like they didn't like people

So how do we live today with a manner of life that weighs as much as the gospel.

A) Consistently live in a way that reflects that balance between **Grace and truth!**

B) Live in way where you are constantly reminding yourself – **I am a sinner who has been saved by grace!**

1) Although my sin might be different from this persons – **I am not better - I was just as lost**

C) Live in a way – that reflects the reality – **THERE IS HOPE FOR THIS WORLD – HIS NAME IS JESUS**

How do we stand Strong in a Hostile World? Live in a way that reflects Jesus?

#1 Consistency- Manner of life matches the gospel

#2 Synergy - the **combined power** of a **group** of things when they are **working** together that is **greater** than the **total power achieved** by each **working separately**:- Unity

²⁷ Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you **stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,**

A) **For the Faith – that is the gospel** - Pic Armies often march into battle – under a banner - - a flag

B) Our banner – It is the gospel – GOODNEWS – HOPE !

1) For the faith that is the GOSPEL

C) THE GOSPEL is not **our view of Prophecy**

1) The gospel is not our Political views

D) Not the main thing!

The Gospel is the message of Hope – Life – that is found in Jesus

A) That Model of Grace and truth – see in Jesus!

C) Paul is saying to the Church in Philippi – and us – 1) stand together - Strive together – **put forth great effort** – under that BANNER

D) Unfortunately – throughout history – the Christian church done a bad job of that!

We have made other things – the main thing -

A) We seem divided more than we are TOGETHER!

B) The opposite of synergy is sideways energy – pulling in opposite directions

C) That is often the picture of the Church – instead of striving together – Striving – against each other

My Wife and I experienced this several years ago while on vacation in Maui

A) We decided to rent a TANDEM KAYAK
I love Kayaking – own one –

B) **Kayaking together** – Tandem – thinking so fun!

1) Disaster – we couldn't paddle in sync - we were pulling in opposite directions

C)Denise – get me out of this boat.

D)Led us to buy – **her own kayak**– Not trying that again!!!

1)These two lead the marriage fellowship

We experience **great synergy** in our own boats –
Paddle same direction -Pace – enjoy our company

A)She likes to stop and take pics – I paddle up and come back - **AWESOME**

B)We have mastered Tandem too!

Having synergy in the church doesn't mean – we all have to look the same or believe the same about everything

A)The Bible **celebrates diversity** in the body of Christ

B)Synergy happens when we are **PADDLING IN THE SAME DIRECTION.**

C)**SYNERGY HAPPENS** – when we know what the main thing is – **THE GOSPEL**

1)**We REALIZE - exist for the GOSPEL**

D)Tell our world – our community – there is **HOPE – YOU ARE LOVED**

1)You don't have to perish? – You can know God!

E)NOW We might express that differently – **different flavors – DIFFERENT STYLES**

1)but we love and appreciate each other – celebrate victories

AND Every now and then we get in the same boat – and paddle together

A)National Day of Prayer - - Community outreach

B)**We do that well here in North County!**

1) One Church – movement – Evangelical Churches.....

C)**We get together for fellowship/ Encouragement even training - on a regular basis**

Christianity is a team sport –

A)Stand fast – One spirit – one mind striving together – Sunathleo

B)Athletes on a team coming together!

1) I have to put aside **my personal preferences** and do what is best for the team!

C)Olympics see that example – all great athletes -

1)**BUT** if they are going to win a Medal- they have to compete as a team!

Listen Church: We are a team- We are working together for the faith that is the Gospel

A)We are **HOPE DEALERS**

B)**CAREFUL – NOT GET SIDE TRACKED BY things that don't matter as much**

C)We exist as believers and as a church body to reflect Jesus!

D)**Fight with my brothers and sisters – not against**

Before the Spanish Civil War, in the great cities of Spain, like Barcelona and Madrid, the psychological clinics treated large numbers of people for what some called **little issues, personal problems, personal anxieties.**

But then the Civil War broke out.

And when it did, one of the most striking effects the Civil War had on the Spanish population is it virtually emptied the psychological clinics overnight.

They were suddenly all cured by a greater anxiety.

People were no longer worried about little personal problems. Now they're worried about, will my husband be alive because of this war?

Will my son come home from the battlefield?
Greater anxieties get rid of lesser anxieties.

Why am I sharing that with you?

A)Because just in case you're the type of person who likes to bicker and meddle and gossip and divide,

B) **let me just say THIS - get into the real battle.**

C)Quit using your sword against other Christians and realize there's this huge demonic onslaught and a world that wants you to fall.

D)Quit getting distracted on non essentials and get in the real battle

1)Carry the banner of the gospel **TOGETHER!**

D)How do we stand Strong in a Hostile World?

#1 Consistency

#2 Synergy

#3 Bravery ²⁸ and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

A)Not terrified - NLT – **not intimidated**

B)The word terrified – was a word used of a horse that gets spooked and throws it's rider – runs back to the stable –

1)I don't want to be out here riding

C)I see Two wrong reactions of Christians living in the world – today

1)**One is to get defensive** – They fight the hostility by letting the world know everything they are against –

D)In doing do they are **no longer carrying the banner** of the gospel – NOT GOOD NEWS

1)Their message is – It is all Bad – the world is a Horrible place -

The other way: Is they cower IN FEAR!

A)They don't carry any banner at all!

B)They have no voice – instead of speaking the truth in love –they don't speak the truth at all.

C)Paul is painting this picture: Know what you are about – know the banner you are to carry –

1)**carry it BRAVELY** – Even though some are not going to like it – OK

D)APOSTLE JOHN declared - The darkness hates the light – the light exposes their evil deeds

E)What Paul means in V.28 – it is perdition to them – it describes a loss of well being –

1) sign of something that is perishing -

When we live in a manner that honors the gospel – honors Christ – that stands in stark contrast to the world.

A)The gospel – declares – **you were made for God** – Sinned caused a wedge - Jesus is the remedy –

B)True life is living in a relationship with Jesus and living to honor God

C)But The Predominant message of the world is –

Live for yourself – live to please yourself

1)But it doesn't satisfy!!!!

So when we Boldly and Bravely carry the banner of the gospel – the Hope that there is in Christ – Meaning for life in Christ

A)**It is a sign of our salvation** – Confidence that we know what we are living for –

B)But it is also a sign to the unbeliever that they are missing something.

C)Testimony – Youth pastor

D)When Christian's Bravely -live in a manner worthy of the Gospel - –

1)Sends a message – I am Free – Life with Jesus is good

E)the world can see that they are missing out

How do we stand Strong in a Hostile World?

#1 Consistency

#2 Synergy

#3 Bravery

#4 Not going to like this one – Through Agony!

²⁹ For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, ³⁰ having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear *is* in me.

A)Interesting phrase: It has been granted to you – granted speaks of privilege – It is a privilege to suffer for Christ

B)**Bible promise that few like to claim – Those who seek to live godly in Christ will suffer persecution**

C)**Suffering for the sake of Christ = proof that we belong to Jesus**

Get saved: Friends don't understand you anymore

A)You don't want to do the things that you used to do – LOADED -

B)**Reaction:** Some are going to want to find out why? – Get saved

1)Others are not going to want to be your friend anymore

C) **Just the way that it goes!** – When you suffer in that way – **it is your badge of honor** - enter into the unique company of Christ

D) Jesus told his disciples – Don't be surprised when the world hates you They hated me!

Suffering for Christ sake: Carrying the banner of the Gospel

A) **Not for being obnoxious** – Some believers

B) When your life is having an impact – some believe – blessed by you and others are irritated and persecute

C) Sign you are doing it right? – Everyone likes you – probably not a good sign –

1) A lot of love and grace – but no truth

Why would suffering be a leg of the stool that brings stability?

A) The Bible says: The Fear of God is the beginning of Wisdom – fear of man – SNARE

B) So when we go into this the mentality – I Love God – Committed – no matter the cost

C) **Result is stability** – Skip H – **when you bow before God – you can stand before ANYONE**

Lets CARRY THE BANNER – GOSPEL

A) Good news – Redeemed – live like it

B) Manner of your life match – the glorious truth – Hope for the Hopeless

1) Jesus Saves- Jesus transforms – I am living proof

C) **Lets Realize: In this together** – Work together Striving one mind heart – under one banner

AS - Hostility gets louder – Be brave –

Result – Jesus is Seen – Jesus is declared Lives and Communities are changed!

Practical way to do that TOGETHER

The World THINKS OF What we are against instead of what we are for.

We want to send a message: **We are for our city**
A) Now I know that this body of believers is made up of people from all over – NC

B) Many that live in Oceanside – Bonsall – Fallbrook

1) CB – SM – ESCD

C) But the community that God has placed us to Shine in collectively is Vista

We want our Church -to be known – for our City

A) Campaign - #forVista - we are for our city

B) Like it and share it - Use it

C) Thankful for about Vista – Rolling hills

1) Burrito shops - eating at #forVista

C) Attach it to our church IG – youth

1) Celebrate – victories – congrats

D) Also – Outreach – Good Friday - #forVista

1) Easter Risen - #forVista

Calvary Vista – For our city – God is for our city

Simple message -