

# We Fight Regardless

Philippians 1:27-30

Joe Testa, College & Young Adult Pastor

May 30, 2021



1. We fight best by living out the gospel.  
“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ” (Philippians 1:27a)
2. How do we live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Jesus?
  - The gospel is all about humility. What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it? (1 Corinthians 4:7-8)
  - Because humility is the foundation of the gospel, we are quick to apologize when we fail. Asking for forgiveness is a mark of the gospel.
  - And when someone hurts us, we freely forgive them. Giving forgiveness is a mark of the gospel.
3. We fight best when we stand together.  
“so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel” (Philippians 1:27b)
4. Synathleo: - (“Struggle along with”) The word translated “striving together” gives us our English word “athletics.”
5. What does “striving side by side for the faith of the gospel” mean?
6. Faith of the gospel is the body of divine truth given to the church (Wiersbe - Bible Exposition Commentary)
7. “The context assumes that people opposed the church and its message...That means that this construction probably relates to its taking the gospel to the world. Paul must have meant “contending for the advance of the gospel.” (Melick - New American Commentary)
8. How best do we do this?
  - We keep our eyes on Jesus.
  - Keep our focus on the mission of God.

9. We fight best when we are prepared to suffer.

“and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have. (Philippians 1:28-30, Acts 5:41, Philippians 3:10-11)

10. How do we do this?

- We realize that suffering for Jesus' sake is normal. (John 16:33)
- We allow suffering to push us to Jesus. And in our walk with Jesus, we experience a special fellowship as we share in the sufferings of Christ.
- We realize that Christians all around the world are suffering with us for the sake of Christ. We are not alone in our suffering. And we as we suffer, we can invite others to pray for us and remember to pray for others who are suffering.

## QUOTES

“Paul usually used the verb “walk” (peripateo) to describe a Christian’s conduct...but here he used the verb Politeuo (political word meaning “conduct yourselves as citizens).” - Richard Melick Jr.

“Paul is saying – Behave the way citizens are supposed to behave.”  
-Warren Wiersbe

“The Greatest weapon against the devil is a godly life. And a local church that practices the truth, that “behaves what it believes,” is going to defeat the enemy.”  
Warren Wiersbe

## SONG TITLES

**Love Come Down** - North Point Worship

**Yes I Will** - Vertical Worship

**All Creatures of Our God and King** - David Crowder Band

**Build My Life** - Pat Barrett