

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS – LESSON 4
PHILIPPIANS 1:27-2:4
WEEK OF OCTOBER 7 - 11

Paul calls the Philippians to walk in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ by walking in unity with brothers and sisters in the church

In the first 26 verses of Philippians, Paul expresses his deep affection for and devotion to pray for his beloved Philippian Church. He shares from his personal experiences during his time in jail to encourage the Philippians to look beyond difficult and trying circumstances and to understand that God uses trials and hardship to accomplish His sovereign purposes in the communication of the gospel.

Starting in Phil.1:27 and extending through Philippians 2:4, Paul, shifts his focus and provides practical instruction to address a significant issue within the Philippian church; an issue that faces every church in every "age; an issue of utmost importance - - the unity of the church.

1. What is Paul's instruction in **verse 27(a)**? and what do the following verses add to that instruction?
 - **I Cor 1:10**
 - **Eph 4:1**
 - **1 Thess 2:11**

2. In **verse 27(b)**, how does Paul say that conduct (or walking) in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ is displayed in the church? What does each phrase mean?

3. Often opposition to the gospel can cause doubts and division within the church. In **verses 28-30**, how does Paul instruct the believers to respond to opposition?

In **Phil. 2:1-4**, "Paul gives what is perhaps the most concise and practical teaching about unity in the New Testament. In these four powerful verses, he outlines a formula for spiritual unity that includes three necessary elements on which that unity must be built: the right motives, **verses 1-2(a)**; the right marks, **verse 2(b)**; the right means, **verses 3-4**." [MacArthur New Testament Commentary Philippians](#), John MacArthur, page 103

4. In **Phil 2:1**, the word "if" in the NASB is better translated because or since. From verse one, what truths does Paul say should motivate the Philippians to live in unity?

5. In **Phil 2:2**, Paul encourages the Philippians to “make my joy complete” by responding to the spiritual realities in verse one by exhibiting what four marks of spiritual unity?
6. How do the following verses help explain those marks of spiritual unity?
- **Rom 12:10-11**
 - **Rom. 15:5-6**
 - **I Cor. 1:10**
 - **Col.3:12-16**
7. From **Phil. 2:3-4**, list the actions and attitudes critical to spiritual unity. (And for extra credit, if you wish, provide additional verses which also address those actions and attitudes).
8. How are you personally challenged by those motives for unity from **Phil. 2:1** (*question 4*)? What action will you take in response?
9. As you consider the significance of spiritual unity in the church, what thoughts or actions of yours do you need to address to protect and preserve unity within the church?
10. How can you show humility and selflessness in your relationships this week? (Be specific)

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13: 34-35