

Taking the Next Step

Philippians 1:1-30

August 30, 2015

The Christian life is not a playground; it is a battleground! We were reminded of this last week and the battle that we are in. Remember, the enemy wants to steal, kill and destroy.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:12-13

Paul reminds the Church at Philippi and to us today to:

1) Be **Consistent** (Phil. 1:27a)

Our **conduct** is to be **consistent** with the Gospel. He doesn't ask them to put on a show or only do it when He is there, but always.

In other words, let that which we say and do be not as a response as to who is watching or looking at us, but that our conduct be in direct correlation to the Gospel.

It's a case of "be the same person at home as you are out and about."

We will never be more in **public** than we are in **private**.

We must decide to follow Jesus or follow the world. What we need, what our family needs, what our workplace needs and what our Church needs is a consistent believer.

"I am a part of the fellowship of the Unashamed. I have the Holy Spirit Power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure. I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tame visions, mundane talking, chintzy giving, and dwarfed goals. I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by presence, learn by faith, love by patience, lift by prayer and labor by power. My pace is set, my gait is fast, my goal is Heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions few, my Guide is reliable, my mission is clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, deterred, lured away, turned back, diluted, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity. I won't give up, back up, let up, or shut up until I've preached up, prayed up, paid up, stored up, and stayed up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I must go until He returns, give until I drop, preach until all know, and work until He comes. And when He comes to get His own, He will have no problem recognizing me. My colors will be clear for "I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes." (Romans 1:16) "I am not ashamed"" ~ Dr. Bob Moorehead

I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

Revelation 3:15-16

We are to be:

- Consistent in our **walk**
- Consistent in our **talk**
- Consistent in the **“teaching”** we convey

The greatest weapon against the devil is a godly life. Conduct matters in the context of the GOSPEL!!!

2) Be **Cooperative** (Phil. 1:27b)

One **Spirit**- God

One **Mind**- Mind of God

“The enemy is always happy to see internal divisions in a local ministry. “Divide and conquer!” is his motto, and too often he has his way. It is only as believers stand together that they can overcome the wicked one. Throughout this letter, Paul uses an interesting device to emphasize the importance of unity. In the Greek language, the prefix sun-means “with, together,” and when used with different words, strengthens the idea of unity. (It is somewhat like our prefix co-.) At least sixteen times, Paul uses this prefix in Philippians, and his readers could not have missed the message! In Philippians 1:27, the Greek word is sunathleo—“striving together as athletes.”” ~ Warren Wiersbe

We have our **game plan**: to love God and lead others to love Him to.

Our **playbook**- The Bible

Our **method**- me and you, all believers

The **problem**- We forget our game plan, the playbook and why. We get off track and get selfish.

We will face differences, but it’s what we do when we face those differences. We either “work it out” for the greater good of the Gospel, be angry and bitter or just quit all together.

For the sake of the Gospel, we can’t afford to not work together.

3) Be **Confident** (Phil. 1:28-30)

The fact that we are in a battle reminds us we suffer as Christ suffered. It is an honor to face such sufferings.

“that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,”

Philippians 3:10

For some reason, many believers have the idea that trusting Christ means the end of their battles. In reality, it means the beginning of new battles. “In the world ye shall have tribulation” (John 16:33).~ Warren Wiersbe

As we remain consistent and cooperative we can, and should, expect to face struggles. Be confident that Jesus faced them and so have other believers.

We are to be consistent, cooperative and confident all in Jesus. Too much is at stake to be lackadaisical! Too much is at stake to be half-hearted!. Too much is at stake to be lazy and inconsistent!

I am asking this morning that we, me included, to not make excuses of why this can’t be done, but rather say it will be done and I am a part of it. To say I will be consistent, I will be cooperative and I will be confident!