

## GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

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**Read Philippians 1:27-2:4** Make 2-3 observations of what you see in the text and note any questions you have. Try to answer your questions by using information you find in the passage. Then answer some or all of the questions below.

Paul redefines the Philippian Christians (many of whom were Roman citizens) as citizens of heaven.

- How does this redefinition challenge their core identity?
- How do you think they felt when they heard this?
- What is the difference between adding “Christian” to an existing identity and subordinating an existing identity to your Christian identity?
- What does it mean to take seriously the idea of being citizens of heaven who live on earth? How do we live this out?

Paul commands the Philippians to live a life worthy of the gospel of Christ.

- What is the difference between striving to live a gospel-worthy life and trying to earn salvation by how you live?
- What is the role of grace in striving to live a worthy life?
- Why does it matter if we live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ?

Paul wants Christians to stand firm in the Spirit and in unity rather than giving in to fear of those who oppose us.

- What does it mean for us to corporately stand firm in the Spirit?
- Why is it important that we contend for the faith *together*?
- What is wrong with being frightened and acting from fear?
- Where do you see Christians acting out of fear of opponents today?
- How are unity and steadfastness a sign of both salvation and judgment?

What does Paul mean when he says that it has been granted not only to believe in Christ but also to suffer for him? How does this challenge our assumptions?

Paul wants believers to be united in mindset, love, spirit, and purpose.

- Why do you think he chooses these categories?
- Why are selfish ambition, conceit, and pride threats to the church?
- How is unity different from uniformity? Which does Paul desire?

Paul wants the church (local and global) to be a community in which everyone mutually puts each other’s needs first. What would a community like this look like? Is it even possible? What would the result of such a community be?

What is one thing you can start doing or stop doing to contribute to greater unity in our own church? Ask the Spirit to empower you in this.

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