



## Sermon Discussion Questions

For small group leaders or for a whole small group to use

### “Living Out Our Heavenly Citizenship in a Manner that is Worthy of the Gospel” (Philippians 1:27-30)

June 14, 2026

James Faris

## Sermon Overview

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### Main Idea

Believers are called to live in a manner worthy of the gospel by standing firm in unity. Rather than retreating when faced with opposition, Christians are to remain steadfast in their faith, striving side by side to advance the gospel. Paul taught that believing in Christ and suffering for Him are both gifts from God, and that opposition should not be viewed as a sign of defeat but as confirmation of the Christian calling. By drawing attention to the specific verbs Paul used in this passage, James Faris emphasized the idea that Christian lives are worthy of the gospel when they are marked by unity, confident conviction and perseverance in the face of opposition.

### Sermon Outline

Living Out Our Heavenly Citizenship in a Manner that is Worthy of the Gospel:

1. Stand Firm in One Spirit (v. 27)
2. With One Mind Strive Side by Side (v. 27)
3. Not Frightened in Anything (v. 28)
4. Suffer for His Sake (v. 29)

### Quotation(s)

N/A

## Discussion Questions

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**Read the Scripture Text** (if the text is shorter, consider reading it together several times).

### Initial Engagement

- What is the main idea of the text, or what did the sermon focus on? (See above to review the main point)
- What insight from the text or sermon stood out to you most, and why? (Encourage several people to share)

### Deeper Reflection on the Meaning and Implications

- Heavenly Citizenship
  - What does it mean for you to be an American citizen? What does it mean for you to be a citizen of heaven? What duties and responsibilities do you have as a citizen of each?
  - How does a clear understanding of your heavenly citizenship practically impact the way you live out your life as an American?
- “Standing Firm in One Spirit”
  - What do you think Paul means by “standing firm in one spirit”?
  - What are some practical ways a church or small group can “stand firm in one spirit” today?
  - What challenges most commonly threaten unity among Christians?
- “With One Mind Striving Side by Side”
  - How is striving together for the faith different from pursuing faith individually?



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- How can our group better strive together rather than merely grow as individuals?
- “Not Frightened in Anything”
  - Why might the unity gained from having “one spirit” and from “striving side by side” be especially important when believers face opposition?
  - What does Paul suggest that fearlessness communicates to both believers and opponents?
  - What fears tend to keep believers from openly living out their faith?
- “Suffer for His Sake”
  - Why do you think Paul describes suffering for Christ as something "granted" to believers? How does Paul's own example of suffering strengthen his message to the Philippians?
  - What would change in your life if you viewed both faith and suffering as gifts from God?
- Practically, what would it look like for you to live a life "worthy of the gospel of Christ"?

### Final Response

- What is one practical step you can take this week to grow in one of these areas (e.g. standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with other believers, not be frightened by opposition, suffer for Christ's sake)?