

## Philippians 1:27- 2:4 Sermon Questions

### Gathering

1. Have you ever faced opposition because of your faith? When and why?
2. What do you think is the most counter cultural thing about following Christ in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

### Looking at the Text

In the first part of chapter 1 Paul shares his circumstances and how he feels about them. He is in chains for Christ, but he is not discouraged. He has put his life in the hands of God and can see good in both life and death. But in verse 27 it is clear that Paul's real concern is the church in Philippi. For all his confidence in them, he knows they are facing opposition and he urges them to face this opposition in a way that is "worthy of the gospel." It is easy to apply this command individually but Paul applies it to the church as a whole.

### Read Philippians 1:27-30

1. Paul tells the church to live a life worthy of the gospel. What does that mean according to verses 27-28?
2. Why do you think the reaction of the church in the face of opposition can be a "sign to them"?
3. Read John 13:34-35. What does this say about the unity of the church.
4. The calling of the church in Philippi is to suffer. Read Acts 16:16-24. Why was Paul arrested? What does that say about why people oppose Christians?

### Read Philippians 2:1-4

1. In Philippians 2:1 Paul describes new life in Christ. What words does he use to describe the emotional side of being united with Christ?
2. What does "united in Christ" mean?
3. How does Paul describe unity in the church in verse 2? Which phrase resonates with you?
4. How does unity happen according to verse 3-4?

### Applications

1. Looking at your own life do you think you have been a source of unity or disunity in the church?
2. Paul describe being a Christian as "united with Christ, ... comfort from his love, ... common sharing in the Spirit, ... tenderness and compassion." Does this describe your relationship with God through Christ? Which aspects of this would you like to grow?
3. How is the church a uniquely appropriate place to "value others above yourself?" How can we look to the interests of others in the church?