



**PHILIPPIANS:
ENJOYING LIFE**
An interactive Bible study for
individuals, families,
and LIFE Groups

~ Week Five ~
"Courageous Joy"
Philippians 1:27-30

SERMON NOTES

Record your insights and observations from this week's sermon:

Welcome to UPC's weekly Bible study guide. We pray that this tool will help you **RECALL** what you heard in the Sunday sermon, **REFLECT** on the Scriptures more fully, and **RESPOND** with love to God, church, and community. If you miss a sermon, or would like to review it, visit our website: www.upc-orlando.com.

WARM UP

Share about a time when you suffered because you are a Christian. What happened, and how did you cope with it?

RECALL THE SUNDAY SERMON

Read Philippians 1:27-30

a) At first glance, it may appear strange that Paul tells the Philippians to "conduct yourselves in a manner *worthy* of the gospel of Christ" (vs. 27). No one is truly "worthy" of salvation if that means earning or deserving it. So what does Paul mean here?

b) Why was it important to Paul that the believers in Philippi stick together, "contending as one man for the faith of the gospel" (vs. 27)?

c) How is unity among Christians a "sign" of condemnation for some and salvation for others (vs. 28)?

d) What aspects of the gospel would empower the Philippians to hold on to their faith in spite of opposition and trial?

e) Share something from this week's sermon that was personally meaningful or helpful to you:

REFLECT A BIT FURTHER

a) By what means do you think Satan today tries to sow discord and disunity in the church at large?

b) Using this week's passage of Scripture, how would you summarize Paul's theology of suffering?

c) Paul implies in verse 29 that both salvation and suffering are gifts from God. Do you think the modern church in general agrees that suffering is a gift? Why or why not?

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

a) This week's lesson reminds us that unity is essential to the church's witness and power. Each one of us at UPC either contributes to or compromises the unity of the church by our words and actions. How well do you feel you are helping us to "stand firm in one spirit" (vs. 27)? Look over

the list of "unity busters" below, and put a check mark by those attitudes and behaviors that you have recently engaged in:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gossip | <input type="checkbox"/> Thanklessness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slander | <input type="checkbox"/> Complaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expecting too much of others | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayerlessness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holding a grudge | <input type="checkbox"/> Impatience |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being unreliable | <input type="checkbox"/> Deceitfulness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stinginess with time or money | <input type="checkbox"/> Condemning someone else for things on this list |

b) If you see yourself in any of the items above, repent by admitting the truth and believing the gospel. Jesus died for those sins, and rose again to give you power to love others!

PRAY FOR UPC

Please pray this week for:

- The new families who attended last Saturday's **Easter Fun Fest** – that those who do not know Christ will come into the family of God.
- Our **Maundy Thursday & Easter Sunday** worship services.
- **Vacation Bible School** June 11-16 - that many children will give their hearts to Jesus that week.
- Our **Women's Ministry**, as they plan their annual spring retreat for May 19-21.
- **Manna**, our ministry to the homeless – that the Saturday morning breakfasts in Downey Park would be well-attended, well-staffed, attractive representations of the gospel of Christ.
- Our **high school youth group**, many of whom are planning to go on a mission trip to London in June.
- Our presbytery's efforts to start up a **Reformed University Fellowship** at UCF next fall. Later this month, the committee overseeing this effort will formally recommend **Ande Johnson**, our College Director, for the position of campus minister. Pray for adequate funding and for Ande as he completes the preparation process.