



<b>SERIES:</b>	Technicolor Joy
<b>MESSAGE:</b>	<b>How to Stand When They Want You to Fall</b>
<b>SPEAKER:</b>	Skip Heitzig
<b>SCRIPTURE:</b>	Philippians 1:27-30

## MESSAGE SUMMARY

The truth is, we're surrounded and outnumbered! The vast majority of the people we encounter in life don't share our values nor worship our God. The difficulty of the Christian life is that we're called to stand up for Christ when the rest of the world wants us to sit down or fall flat. They would much rather that we keep our mouths shut and conform to *their* standards. Let's consider four spiritual weapons that will help us in the fight to stand strong in our faith.

## DETAILED NOTES

### I. Introduction

- A. Unbelievers are watching and scrutinizing Christians now more than ever
- B. Paul understood that the Christian life is not a playground but a battleground
  - 1. He had his share of troubles and persecution
  - 2. 2 Corinthians 11:23-25
- C. Paul wrote to the Philippians as soldiers

### II. Consistency (v. 27a)

- A. The literal translation of *conduct* is *political affiliation*
  - 1. *Politeuomai*
    - a. We get our words *politics* and *police* from this word
    - b. Comes from the word *polis* which means *a city*
    - c. Carries the idea of being a good citizen
  - 2. Our citizenship is in heaven (see Philippians 3:20)
  - 3. The idea is that we conduct ourselves so we offer the very best of ourselves to God
- B. Worthy of the gospel
  - 1. *Worthy* means to balance the scales
  - 2. Paul was saying that our practice must match our proclamation
- C. If we say we have a repentant life, it must be evident in what our life produces (see Matthew 3:8; Luke 3:8)
  - 1. A Christian must never live beneath his theology
  - 2. One of the greatest weapons against the Devil is a godly, consistent life (see 1 John 1:6)
  - 3. Our lives must give proof that they have been touched by the gospel
    - a. The gospel is filled with love (see John 3:16)
    - b. The gospel is filled with forgiveness
    - c. The gospel is filled with hope

d. The gospel is filled with holiness

III. Unity (v. 27b)

- A. Stand firm
  - 1. *Stēkete* = stand fast, stand firm, persevere
  - 2. Speaks of a soldier who would stand in his position in the face of opposition
- B. When you have other people standing with you, your odds of victory increase
  - 1. *Sunathleó* = to strive with
  - 2. Paul saw the church as a team sport
- C. Unity in the Bible does not mean:
  - 1. Unanimity—everyone thinks exactly the same way
  - 2. Uniformity—everyone acts the same way
- D. Unity means harmony
  - 1. We choose to work together and cooperate over the essentials
  - 2. In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity
  - 3. Jesus prayed for unity (see John 17:11, 21-23)

IV. Bravery (v. 28)

- A. Don't let unbelievers scare you
  - 1. The word *terrified* refers to horses that are easily spooked and throw their riders
  - 2. Another term for this is *battle-shy*
- B. The church cannot be motivated by fear because fear cripples people
  - 1. Fearful people can be manipulated
  - 2. The Philippians had reason to be afraid
    - a. They could be persecuted
    - b. They could be executed
- C. When you are hassled by unbelievers, it proves who you are
  - 1. Be a brave nonconformist
  - 2. You will shine like a light in a dark background
  - 3. They will fall back (see John 18:5-6)
  - 4. Stephen could not keep his mouth shut about Jesus (see Acts 7:56)
  - 5. Peter was timid at first, but was then filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (see Acts 2:1-37)
- D. Don't shrink from your world; stand up to it
  - 1. If you bow before God you will be able to stand before man
  - 2. Matthew 10:28; Luke 12:4-5

V. Agony (vv. 29-30)

- A. If you believe in God, you will suffer for Him
  - 1. 2 Timothy 3:12
  - 2. John 16:33
- B. Paul saw suffering as a privilege
  - 1. The word *granted* comes from the word *grace*
  - 2. God gave us the grace to suffer
- C. Suffering will enlarge your life and make you a delight to others as you are tempered by that suffering (see Philippians 3:10)
  - 1. When you suffer on earth, it makes you long for heaven
  - 2. When you suffer on earth, it produces patience in you

3. When you suffer on earth, you will become sensitive to the suffering of other believers
  - D. When you suffer, make sure you suffer for the right reasons
    1. On Christ's behalf, for His sake (see Matthew 5:10)
    2. Some people are persecuted because they are obnoxious
    3. Matthew 10:16; Colossians 4:6
- VI. Closing
- A. Stand tall, strong, and together, even if it hurts
  - B. Stand for God's glory

**Figures referenced:** Augustine of Hippo, Bernard of Clairvaux, John Bunyan, John Calvin, Billy Graham, Martyn Lloyd-Jones, C.S. Lewis, D.L. Moody, G. Campbell Morgan, Charles H. Spurgeon, Telemachus, Charles Wesley, John Wesley, George Whitefield, N.T. Wright

**Greek words:** politeuomai, stēkete, sunathleó

**Cross references:** Matthew 3:8; 5:10; 10:16, 28; Luke 3:8; 12:4-5; John 3:16; 16:33; 17:11, 21-23; 18:5-6; Acts 2:1-37; 7:56; 2 Corinthians 11:23-25; Philippians 3:10, 20; Colossians 4:6; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 John 1:6

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