

Sermon Outline

Together in Christ Series: "Citizens Worthy of the Gospel"

Philippians 1:27-2:11

Mark Mitchell

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Main Idea: What does it look like to be a community shaped by the gospel and in ongoing fellowship with our triune God? How should we live? What should be our primary focus? How will we know if we are bearing fruit? The goal of the **Together in Christ** series is to answer these, and other, related questions. Today's sermon reminds us that we are called to live as citizens worthy of the Gospel, striving for the unity and love that we have already with our great God by faith in Jesus Christ.

Sermon Outline:

1. Exhortation: Conduct yourselves as Citizens Worthy of the Gospel (1:27)
2. Explanation: Strive for Unity (1:28-2:4)
 - a. Strive for unity in the face of opposition (1:28-30)
 - b. Strive for unity through gracious relationships (2:1-2)
 - c. Strive for unity through humble service (2:3-4)
3. Example: Follow Christ (2:5-11)

Key Quotes:

"Our collective community mindset is to be the mindset of Jesus Christ." - Mark Mitchell

"Here we see again why the 'scandal of the cross' was so central to [Paul's] understanding of everything Christian. For in 'pouring himself out' and 'humbling himself to death on the cross,' Christ Jesus has revealed the character of God himself. Here is the epitome of God-likeness: the preexistent Christ was not a 'grasping, selfish' being, but one whose love for others found its consummate expression in 'pouring himself out,' in taking on the role of a slave, in humbling himself to the point of death on behalf of those so loved." - Gordon Fee

Fellowship Starters:

1. Read Philippians 1:17-2:11 together and then open in prayer.
2. Discuss the topic of "citizenship." Is being a citizen something that you do by yourself, or in community *together*? How does Paul want the reality that we have a *citizenship in heaven* to affect our lives as citizens on earth? Is being a citizen in heaven really all that different than our citizenship on earth?
3. Discuss each of the three points under "Strive for Unity" above. Where should you be encouraged at the grace of God already at work in one or more of these areas? Where is the Holy Spirit bringing gracious conviction and grace to grow to be of the same mind and love in Christ as you seek live more like Christ in the face of opposition, in your relationships, or in service to others?
4. Read John 17:9-23 and close in prayer for one another that each of us might walk in a manner worthy of the calling that Jesus has called us to, to the glory of God.