

**LEADERS GUIDE: 2/9/14 | PHILIPPIANS 1:27-30**

1. Read through these scriptures and write down what they say about the gospel and you:

Ephesians 2:1-5: I was dead, followed the world, followed Satan, lived in the passions of my flesh, carried out the desires of my body and mind, and was a child of wrath. All this was overcome by God's mercy and great love. I was raised from the dead and saved by grace.

John 6:40: I looked on Jesus and believed in him. It was then that I was saved and given eternal life.

Romans 10:9-10: I confessed Jesus as Lord and believed in my heart that God raised him from the dead. It was then that I was justified and saved.

Mark 1:15: I must repent and believe the gospel.

John 1:12-13: I must receive and believe in Jesus to become a child of God. I am then born of the will of God.

John 3:3: I must be born again to see the kingdom of God.

2. Philippians 1:28 connects the gospel to the issue of fear. Why should the gospel make us fear less?

The gospel can be articulated (proclaimed) and detailed out in innumerable ways. But "applying" the gospel means that you see your life in light of what Jesus has done for you. So in the case of a Christian facing fear they must stand on the gospel (Jesus dying on the cross to rescue us from the wrath of God) first. The gospel unpacked (articulated) means that Jesus faced the greatest fear a man could ever face, that being the wrath of God. He faced the crushing fear of the wrath of God without sinning. That's where a believer can gain his confidence and that's why you can trust what Hebrews 4:14-16 says and instructs you to do.

Applying the gospel means that you humbly pray through this Hebrews text with fear being your burden but understanding that Jesus was tempted to sin with the most extreme situation there could be for fear (the wrath of God). Since he's already faced the greatest fear and defeated it you can be confident that when you face fear you can draw near to the throne of grace and receive help in your time of need. It's combining the ingredients of understanding the gospel and being able to articulate the gospel. It's then, and only then, that the application of the gospel truth occurs on the most intimate level for every believer. That's why it is paramount that every believer understand and know how to articulate the gospel. Gospel application is always connected to gospel articulation and gospel articulation is always connected to gospel understanding.

3. Read through Philippians 1:27-30 again, as you read through it, list the behaviors that Paul attributes to a life worthy of the gospel:

Gospel articulation leads to everything gospel and that's what Paul lived and how Paul lived. So with this question you want to see answers with words and phrases like steadfastness, unity, working side by side, boldness, long-suffering, and spiritual warfare. But what's critical is that while there are great Christian behaviors in these four verses what makes them durable and sustainable is connecting them to Jesus primarily. That would mean that the answers would have the gospel as a

part of them. Gospel steadfastness, gospel unity, gospel work, gospel long-suffering, and gospel spiritual warfare.

4a. Philippians 1:27 talks about living out the gospel together as a church. Read Ephesians 4:1-3. Why is this life difficult and costly for us?

The easiest reason and simplest answer is Ephesians 4:1. Paul was a prisoner for the Lord and American Christians are prisoners of their wants and needs, primarily. A church is made up of individuals first, so their individual-ness makes up the corporate culture and spiritual condition of any church. So a church's integrity is built on individuals living out the gospel with sincerity, humility, and passion. The life is costly because it means that we often lay down our wants and desires for the sake of the gospel. We live for the glory of Christ and the good of others, and this takes a certain amount of self-denial.

4b. How is being an engaged part of the church able to help you to “live a life worthy of the gospel”?

The local church is the primary means of grace that God has established for believers grow and become more like Christ. To explain this to your group you would want to have them read Ephesians 4:11-16, Romans 12:3-8, 1 Corinthians 12:7; 14:12, and Hebrews 10:19-25. Gathering and meeting together, combined with Bible reading, prayer, serving your local church with the gifts that God has given you for the common good will help you to “live a life worthy of the gospel.”