

Counter-Cultural Christianity
Philippians 1:27-30

“We must not forget that the gospel of Christ is holy. It never excuses sin: it pardons it, but only through an atonement. If our life is to resemble the gospel, we must shun, not merely the grosser vices, but everything that would hinder our perfect conformity to Christ” -Charles Spurgeon

In recent years, the Church and our Culture have been **mingling** together. This has had two major effects:

1. You have a higher chance for those who are not Christians to be deceived into thinking they are. These are *nominal Christians* (Christians in name only) who identify with certain aspects of Christianity but neglect the spiritual requirements of **repentance, faith** and **submission** to Christ.
2. The Church is watered down by the culture. Instead of preaching the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27) the Church preaches an imbalanced view of scripture in order to **accommodate** the Culture.

The way we live as Christians, and the Church as a whole, should be *clear* to the culture around us that they are lost and headed for destruction (vs. 28). The fact that we have a **heavenly citizenship** should be evident in our lives (Phil 3:20). Living a life worthy of the Gospel of Christ is the goal. (Vs. 27). How do we accomplish this?

1. **Stand Firm** - Christians are engaged in a conflict. (Vs. 29-30). We are to stand *for* God and *against* Satan (1 Pet 5:8-9). We are to stand *for* truth and *against* falsehood (3 John 1:4). We are to stand *for* righteousness and *against* wickedness (Heb 1:9)
- This is in the big decisions as well as the small decisions (1 Cor 10:31)
2. **In One Spirit, in One Mind, Striving Side by Side** - This is our **doctrine** we stand on and our **disposition** toward one another. We should be unified in our attitudes and in what we believe! (Ecc 4:12, Phil 4:1-3)
3. **Not to Be Frightened** - We are sure to meet opposition in our Christian walks (2 Tim 3:12) But our example of faith, in the face of opposition, along with presenting the gospel, is a powerful witness to those who are lost around us (Acts 7:51-60) We know the outcome of the conflict we are engaged in. It ends with our **salvation** (vs. 28) Our suffering is temporary, as we are sojourners here (1 Pet 2:11) The suffering for those who die in their sins is eternal. It ends with their destruction (vs. 28)

Vs. 30 Paul did not grow discouraged in the conflict he was engaged in. He still felt the weight of sorrow and suffering, but God gave him joy in the midst of it.

Worship: Tis So Sweet — Various Artists

Satisfied In You — The Sing Team

Bless the Lord, O My Soul (Psalm 103) — Sovereign Grace Music

Closing Song: Christ Is Mine Forevermore — City Alight

Service Times: Sundays: Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;
Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** Throughout the month of November we are collecting monetary donations for the Lambs. The Lambs live and serve in Papua New Guinea, working to translate the Bible into the multiple native languages of that region. There is a container on the back table for your monetary donations. You can also give on Venmo, please make sure to note that it is for the Lambs. Currently, the Lambs' budget is 91% funded. They are still seeking 9% of their budget, which is \$990 per month. (This budget is set for them by Wycliffe Bible Translators, and it is fine-tuned to allow them to live and work for a 3-year term in PNG.) A monthly gift of \$110 will cover 1% of their budget. If you are interested in partnering with their ministry, talk to one of the elders and they will get you the necessary information.

★We will NOT be having a worship service on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23rd!