

rejoice [my choice.]

PART 4

A SERMON SERIES ON PHILIPPIANS

May 10, 2015 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVING OUT MY IDENTITY IN CHRIST

Philippians 1:27-30

WHAT IT MEANS TO REJOICE:

*To dwell on **God's grace**
and let it **define** my life
—**reveling** in it—
because it **supersedes** any and every other thing!*

HOW CAN I BE "WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL"?

Option #1:

I **ACHIEVE** my worthiness
before God.

- This is the **LIE**
- This is **RELIGION**
- This means I live rightly **TO BECOME** worthy.
- This depends on **ME**

Option #2:

I **RECEIVE** my worthiness
from God.

- This is the **TRUTH**
- This is **GOSPEL**
- This means I live rightly **BECAUSE I AM** worthy.
- This depends on **JESUS**

*To be "worthy of the gospel" means living out your
GOSPEL IDENTITY.*

LIVING OUT MY IDENTITY IN CHRIST

1. Living out my gospel identity results in **UNITY** in the church. (v.27)
2. Living out my gospel identity **ENCOURAGES** other believers. (v.28a)
3. Living out my gospel identity is a **SIGN** to unbelievers. (v.28b)
4. I must remind myself often that my gospel identity is **RECEIVED** not **ACHIEVED**! (v.29-30)

HOMework



Open Your Group in Prayer. Use the Prayer Guide on the next page for Suggestions.

1. **Read Philippians 1:27-30.**
2. Write out three or four qualities which Paul encouraged the Philippians to continue to develop in their lives.
3. What might be some practical things Paul has in mind in **verse 27** when he exhorts the believers to “let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ”? (See **John 13:14, 15; Galatians 5:16-26; Ephesians 4:1-3** for help in answering this question.)
4. According to **v. 27**, what seems to be the basis for unity in the church?
5. What’s the difference between unity and uniformity?
6. When Paul talks about living out our identity in Christ (living in a manner worthy of the gospel), he often couples it with a call for unity within the church. **Read Ephesians 4:1-3** and **Colossians 1:8-12**. What is the relationship between living out our identity in Christ and having unity as a church?
7. What happens to a church’s unity when it doesn’t root its identity in the gospel of Jesus Christ? What are some things a church might wrongly root its identity in?
8. How does living out your identity in Christ affect others?
9. Review the definition of what it means to rejoice. Do you think there is a relationship between choosing to rejoice and living out my identity in Christ?
10. In **Philippians 1:29**, what are some things that have been “granted” to the saints?
11. Pastor Josh mentioned that the Greek word for “granted” (*charizomai*) has its meaning rooted in grace or favor. (In fact, the word is most commonly used in the bible for “forgiveness.”) The idea is that to be “granted” or “graced” something is an undeserved privilege. — Look back at your answers to the previous question, have you considered those things to be expressions of God’s grace to you? How do each of them demonstrate his grace to you?
12. Compare **Philippians 1:29** with the following passages. What do they teach us about suffering?

Romans 8:16-18

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

1 Peter 3:14-17
13. How could this kind of mindset with regard to suffering, in your current circumstances, make a difference in your life? How could it help you choose to rejoice?

