

Session 3  
26 October 2025

# Standing together in Christ

## *Philippians 1:27 – 2:11*

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*A key verse in this section is verse 27:*

***“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ”***

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*To be called to stand in front of the King of Kings and be deemed “worthy” is a tall order. In another key verse in the section Paul explains the secret as to how:*

***“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.”***

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The Church of England is celebrating 150 years of its existence in Belgium with a special service attended by the King of Belgium. As clergy, we have been given clear instructions on our dress code, so that we may be seen as worthy before the King. As Christians we will all stand before the judgement seat of Christ, and answer to him, not on our dress but on our behaviour. Have we lived a life worthy of our calling, since He has called us to himself, welcomed us into his Royal Family and gifted us with his Holy Spirit?



*“Every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord”*

*Paul is not saying here that everyone will be saved through Jesus, but that whether they love him as their Lord and Saviour or completely reject him and his ways, they will acknowledge him as Lord on that final day, and bow the knee before him.*

*Jesus himself teaches about this (e.g. Matthew 25: 31 – 46) as did the prophets (e.g. Isaiah 45: 22 – 24).*

There are many privileges to belonging to Jesus, and to be known and loved by him. It might at first sight be odd though to consider suffering for Jesus a privilege. Yet the first disciples certainly did (Acts 5:41) and in many countries around the world Christians are called to suffer for their faith. Whilst at first we might think that would put people off, evidence suggests that churches experiencing genuine suffering in fact continue to grow.

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*We often talk in church of having fellowship with one another. Yet this implies a very human dimension.*

*Paul gives us a differing insight into what makes church. We have fellowship with the Spirit.*

*Although we experience Christ's love towards us individually as we come to faith in him, it is the Spirit who unites us.*

*The shared experience of fellowship with the Spirit gives us a shared experience and a foundation for the love and compassion we show to one another. It is Spirit led and Spirit enabled.*

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## Highlights from the Passage

- Paul says that suffering for the sake of the Gospel, is the norm, so we shouldn't be surprised by suffering when it happens, and mustn't be thrown off by it either.
- The key to standing firm as a Christian, and being a worthy disciple, is to do this together with others and not try and do it alone.
- The support of the older Christians towards newer Christians is vital for new Christians, enabling them to show how their faith is true.
- The life of Jesus, and the way he views and treats others is the life that we too can live, if we follow his example. The one who had everything (by whom all things were created), comes to serve and give his life.
- Jesus is both God and man, who came to earth to die, so that people would know their creator as Lord and Saviour, and so follow him.
- Christians should be people who are called to serve, valuing others more highly than themselves, and showing Jesus through their actions.

## Questions for Discussion

**Christians are told (verse 27) to conduct themselves in a manner that is of the Gospel. What do you think this looks like in your own life?**

**Verse 27 also speaks of contending for or striving for the faith of the Gospel. In what ways today do we need to contend for the faith of the Gospel? What support would you value to enable you to do this well?**

**There was opposition to those who were contending for the Gospel in early Rome. Is that opposition still visible in today's society? If so, in what ways do we see it, and how might it be countered?**

**Is suffering for our faith a good or bad thing? What makes you think this?**

**The central point of this section is the importance of standing together. What are the key elements of standing well together? What would grow our ability as a church to stand together?**

**How might you go about standing together with someone who expresses a need for support?**

**What inspires you most about Jesus as you read verses 6 to 11? In what ways would you like to grow more like him? How might you go about doing this, with others in support of you?**

**How might you serve someone this week, in imitation of Christ?**