

What's Goin On?

2025-09-22 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Philippians 1:27-30

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Paul wrote Philippians from prison, to a church panicking about what had happened to him. His opening move is to calm them down: what has happened to me has actually advanced the gospel. Pastor Matt pulled five instructions out of what follows. Put the gospel first. Stand together in one spirit. Refuse fear. Suffer well. And put yourself second. He offered a practical use for the first one: gospel first works as a pause button in the middle of an argument. And he was candid about the second: one spirit does not mean agreeing about everything.

To get started

- What is something in your life that turned out better than the situation it came from?

Looking back at the message

One spirit across real disagreement is the hard one. Aim there.

- 1 Pastor Matt described calling a pastor friend he disagrees with fundamentally, and staying in one spirit with him anyway. Who is that person for you, and could you make that call?
- 2 We tend to choose our churches and our conversations by preference, gathering with people who already agree with us. Where do you notice that pull in yourself?
- 3 Pastor Matt suggested saying gospel first as a pause button in the middle of an argument. What argument in your life could use that button? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Philippians 1:27-30 aloud, and verses 12-14 for the context.

- 4 Read Philippians 1:12-14. What does Paul say his imprisonment has actually accomplished?
- 5 Verse 27 says: conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel. What does the rest of the verse say that looks like?
- 6 Verse 29 says something has been granted to you. What two things does it name, and which one surprises you?
- 7 Standing in one spirit is not the same as agreeing about everything. How would you put the difference in your own words? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

The application is closer to home than politics. Point at the household.

- 8 Pastor Matt said the person you most need to stay in one spirit with is probably your spouse, not your coworkers. Where does that land for you?
- 9 What are you afraid of right now that is quietly shaping how you act?
- 10 Putting yourself second sounds fine until it costs something. Where is it hardest for you?
- 11 Is there a preference you have been treating as a conviction? OPTIONAL

The group together

Unity across difference is a group skill, not an individual one.

- 12 Underneath the surface differences, what do the people in this group genuinely have in common?
- 13 What would let this group hold a real disagreement without splitting?
- 14 Who in this group is afraid of something right now, and how could we help carry it?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

Where could you put the gospel first this week, in a situation where you would rather put yourself first?

You might pray about

- For unity that survives real disagreement
- For those afraid of something specific right now
- For hard circumstances that God is using anyway
- For the humility to be second