

5. How can we together be mindful of and prayerful for those who are suffering for the cause of Christ and His gospel, whether they are in our own midst or around the world?

**Digging Deeper (for further study):**

6. Continuing further into the theme and mindset of heavenly citizenship, what are other Scriptural examples that can help us continue to develop this mindset?

7. In what ways do verses 28-30 show us how both our salvation and our suffering is a gift from God?

How can we affirm that suffering can be “granted” or given and used by God, even while suffering itself is not inherently good?

**Citizenship in the Kingdom of Christ**  
**Philippians 1:27-30**  
*February 1, 2015*

1. Our Conduct as a Citizen (v. 27a)

✧ In our position

✧ In our companionship

✧ In our striving for the gospel (v. 27b)

2. Our Confidence as a Citizen (v. 28)

### 3. Our Contribution as a Citizen (v. 29-30)

As you would draw it from the passage, what is conduct that is worthy of the gospel?

How would you move yourself, and encourage others along, toward gospel-worthy conduct right now?

As a citizen of a heavenly country,

1. We are not standing alone (v. 27)
2. We are on the winning side (v. 28)
3. It is a privilege to believe, but also to suffer for Christ (v. 29-30)

3. Consider Paul's circumstances and sufferings and the Philippian church he's writing to. How does his perspective affect our outlook on our own sufferings and hardships?

How do followers of Christ approach suffering and opposition with confidence, keeping our focus on our true citizenship in the kingdom of Jesus Christ? (How does a passage like 2 Corinthians 4:7-12 reinforce this?)

Why is it important for us to maintain unity as a body of Christ as we endure suffering in His name?

### **Message-Based Discussion Questions**

1. As you reflect on the message, what was one observation, application, or insight that stood out to you?
2. Read Philippians 1:27-30 (the text from the message). How does the first part of verse 27 function as the heading for the section? How does it prepare us to hear and apply all that Paul has said and will say to the church?

### **Practicing It Together:**

4. Our ability to grow together upon the gospel will depend upon our unity of mind and Spirit (v. 27). In what specific ways can we develop and apply that sort of unity right now as a group?