



## Studies in Philippians: Bearing the Mark of Joy

*"The Joy of Living Worth of the Gospel"*  
Philippians 1:20-30

### **Sermon Proposition**

Citizens of Jesus's kingdom are marked by joyful unity

### **Paul's Dilemma: To Live or Die for Jesus?**

*For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.*

Philippians 1:21 (NLT)

### **Paul's Concern: Danger of Their Cowardice**

*They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.*

Revelation 12:11 (NIV)

Testimony of Mehdi Dibaj, imprisoned in 1984

## **Paul's Prescription: To Unite in Jesus**

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

## Read It!

Philippians 1:20-30

## Open It!

What team or group have you seen that operated with such unity that they seemed to be one complete whole rather than many parts?

How do you think they were able to work together so well?

## Consider It!

In verse 20, what is Paul's eager expectation? Why is he confident?

How do you think Paul can have a view of death in which he seems to disregard his earthly life in this way?

Complete this sentence according to your temptations:

For me, to live is \_\_\_\_\_ and to die is \_\_\_\_\_  
(e.g. "For me, to live is to get rich, and to die is to leave it all behind.")

How does Paul practically demonstrate his teaching of seeking the interests of others rather than his own interests (see vv. 23-25)?

What does it mean to live as worthy citizens of Jesus's kingdom? Why do you think Paul makes this a plural command that we must do together?

Read Hebrews 10:24-25. What does this verse tell us to do?

In what ways has the church become divided? What do you think are some solutions to bring unity in the church?

When we speak of unity, what are things we might still appropriately disagree about, and what are essentials that we must hold fast? What does unity in the Gospel of Jesus mean?

Think of a time that the way another Christian treated you became a point of division. Did you try to reconcile with them? How can Jesus bring unity to those who have been divided in such a way?

Read Matthew 5:39-48. How does Jesus say we should we deal with opponents? What should be our view of suffering under them, according to Philippians 1:29-30?

## Live It!

- ✓ I will seek God in prayer to put my own wants and needs behind the needs of others, especially those closest to me
- ✓ I will seek peace with \_\_\_\_\_ by forgiving from my heart and following Jesus's command in Matthew 5:39-48
- ✓ I will seek peace with \_\_\_\_\_ by asking for forgiveness

Close in Prayer

*Dear Heavenly Father,  
We confess that we often fail to do what you have told us to do in making peace with our brothers and sisters, because we often look to our own interests instead of the interests of others. Help us to delight in living a life as worthy citizens of your kingdom who seek peace with others even if it costs us something. Help us to respond to hate with love. Help us to pray for those who speak ill against us. Help us to seek forgiveness from those whom we have wronged. Let your light shine through our scars, our hurts, and our trials for your sake. In Jesus's name, Amen.*