

**August 20, 2017**  
**Exercising Heavenly Citizenship**  
**Philippians 1:27-30**

**Introduction:**

● American citizenship

- Yearned for by f \_\_\_\_\_
- Taken for granted by c \_\_\_\_\_

● Ancient Roman citizenship

- Exempt from t \_\_\_\_\_
- Right to appeal a verdict made at a t \_\_\_\_\_
- Immunity from c \_\_\_\_\_
- Could be purchased with a great sum of money (rare); most were b \_\_\_\_\_ a Roman citizen

● Heavenly citizenship

1. Verse 27 commands Christians to do an action:

KJV – *let your conversation be*

NAS – *let your conduct be*

NLT – *live as citizens of heaven*

2. The Greek word contains the word “city” and should be translated with the idea of citizenship as the NLT does. So the command is this: *fulfill your heavenly citizenship in a manner worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ*. How do we do this?

**Stand Firm in One Spirit (27)**

● The picture given

1. The language used is of a s \_\_\_\_\_ standing alert at his post ready to act.
2. The command is to Christians as a g \_\_\_\_\_
  - One spirit – does not refer to the Holy Spirit but to an a \_\_\_\_\_ (see 1Cor 4:21; Gal 6:1)
  - This is a call for Christians to act in u \_\_\_\_\_

● What Satan wants

1. Churches to f \_\_\_\_\_
2. Christians to be d \_\_\_\_\_
3. Christians to not use the privilege of p \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Are we praying about our own attitudes? (Matt 26:40,41)
  - b. Are we praying for each other?
  - c. Are we praying for the church’s ministries?

## Strive Together for the Faith (27)

### ●The picture given

1. The language used is of an a\_\_\_\_\_ competing with all his might.
2. The command is to Christians as a g\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. We are to do this t\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. We are not to do it casually but having one s\_\_\_\_\_ (the word “soul” is often translated as mind as here but involves our mind, will, and emotions)
3. The command is to strive together for the “faith of the gospel”
  - a. This can be translated more specifically as the “faith that the gospel produces” (see Rom 10:17)
  - b. Jesus will not return until the gospel is preached to all ethnic groups (Matt 24:14)

### ●The picture applied

1. How are we as a church body striving together for the faith?
2. How are you putting to practice what is being taught?
3. If Romans 1:16 is true, then what are we afraid of?

## Startled Not by Opposition (28,29)

●The picture given – the word is variously translated as *alarmed*, *surprised*, *terrified*, and *intimidated* and pictures a h\_\_\_\_\_ that refuses to shy.

### ●The picture applied

1. Christians should ex\_\_\_\_\_ opposition
2. Faith in the gospel is not a n\_\_\_\_\_ reaction but requires the intervention of God.
3. Faith was g\_\_\_\_\_ to the Philippians as well as s\_\_\_\_\_ opposition.
4. Revelation 13 prophecies of a world-wide p\_\_\_\_\_ of all Christians (no tribe, tongue, or nation will be exempt). Why should we be surprised by opposition on a smaller scale?

### Conclusion:

How will you exercise your heavenly citizenship with this body of believers?

Write your plan of action below: