

# Philippians 1:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

## Analysis

**Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ** (Μόνον ἀξίως τοῦ εὐαγγελίου τοῦ Χριστοῦ πολιτεύεσθε, Monon axiōs tou euangeliou tou Christou politeu esthe)—Monon ("only, above all") gives priority. Politeuesthe ("conduct yourselves as citizens") is political language, especially potent in Philippi, a Roman colony proud of its citizenship. Paul redefines citizenship around gospel allegiance, not Roman identity. Axiōs ("worthily, in a manner worthy") demands conduct matching gospel values.

**That whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel** (ἵνα...στήκετε ἐν ἐνὶ πνεύματι, μιᾷ ψυχῇ συναθλοῦντες τῇ πίστει τοῦ εὐαγγελίου, hina...stēkete en heni pneumati, mia psychē synathlountes tē pistei tou euangeliou)—Stēkete ("stand firm") is military. Synathlountes ("striving together, contending as athletes") combines athletic imagery with gospel mission. Unity (en heni pneumati, mia psychē) is essential for effective witness.

## Historical Context

Philippi's status as Roman colony (colonia) granted citizens ius Italicum—they were legally Romans living abroad. Paul subverts this by calling them to gospel-

citizenship (cf. 3:20, "our citizenship is in heaven"). First-century churches faced external persecution and internal division; Paul's call to unified witness addressed both. Synathlountes evokes Greco-Roman athletic contests and military drills—shared struggle for common cause.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does your 'citizenship' conduct reveal whether Rome (or your nation) or heaven is your ultimate polis?
2. What would 'striving together' for the gospel look like practically in your church or community?
3. Are you living in a manner 'worthy of the gospel' when Paul (or your pastors) are absent?

## Interlinear Text

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Μόνον	ἀξίως	τοῦ	εὐαγγελίου	τοῦ	Χριστοῦ			
Only	as it becometh	G3588	of the gospel	G3588	of Christ			
G3440	G516		G2098		G5547			
πολιτεύεσθε	ἵνα	εἴτε	ἐλθὼν	καὶ	ἰδὼν	ὑμᾶς	εἴτε	
let your conversation be	that	or	I come	and	see	you	or	
G4176	G2443	G1535	G2064	G2532	G1492	G5209	G1535	
ἄπων	ἀκούσω	τὰ	περὶ	ὑμῶν	ὅτι	στήκετε	ἐν	μῇ
else be absent	I may hear	G3588	affairs	of your	that	ye stand fast	in	one
G548	G191		G4012	G5216	G3754	G4739	G1722	G1520
πνεύματι	μῇ	ψυχῇ	συναθλοῦντες	τῇ	πίστει	τοῦ		
spirit	one	mind	striving together	G3588	for the faith	G3588		
G4151	G1520	G5590	G4866		G4102			
εὐαγγελίου								
of the gospel								
G2098								

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ephesians 4:1** (Parallel theme): I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

**2 Peter 3:14** (Parallel theme): Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

**1 Corinthians 1:10** (References Christ): Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

**Colossians 1:10** (Parallel theme): That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

**Jude 1:3** (Faith): Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

**Philippians 2:12** (Parallel theme): Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

**1 Thessalonians 4:1** (Parallel theme): Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

**Acts 4:32** (Faith): And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

**Psalms 133:1** (Parallel theme): Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

**2 Corinthians 13:11** (Parallel theme): Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.