

Philippians 1:27-30 Life Group Notes

- Stuart said as much as we'd like to stick to the coffee mug/fridge magnet verses of Philippians we are reading today about opposition as we can't skip it! Why is it important that we don't play pic'n'mix with the Bible?
- Stuart went on to say we have an enemy that hates Jesus and God's people. How do we tell if struggles/opposition we face comes from the enemy (spiritual attack) or from someone or something else?
- **"Only** let your manor of life be worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ." Our starting point, however, is grace. Works don't save us, but because of grace we are compelled to do good works. Why is it important to get this the right way around?
- Why are our good works also a blessing and witness for others who don't yet know Christ?
- What does it mean to behave as a 'citizen of heaven' on earth? How much like a citizen of heaven do you feel? What are some of the things of the world's kingdom you find most pulls you away?
- Stand firm in one spirit. This is a command. A rugby scrum would be useless if it consisted of just one person. How easy/hard do you find it to ask others for help and support? What stops you?
- Striving together – the verb here is plural. In a team (like a team of rowers), we have to keep together in team. Yet the church is also called to be diverse – like rich Asian Lydia, the Greek slave girl, and the Roman jailer in Philippi. Is it wrong to find it easier to connect with some people more than others? How do we know when our hearts may not be right in this?
- Rick said that we are called to receive as well as give. In community it is important to be able to do both. Which are you better at? What do you need to learn in this?
- Don't be frightened by those who oppose you! Paul also writes that we have been gifted to suffer for Him; how can suffering for Christ be considered a gift?
- What do you think persecution looks like in the UK today? How do we respond to it?
- We can only do all these things by keeping in step with the Holy Spirit daily. We work with the Holy Spirit by walking with Him every day. How do we recognise when we are trying to do these things in our own strength?