



# PHILIPPIANS

**BASICS FOR BELIEVERS**

Lesson Three:  
**Adopt Jesus' Death as a  
Test of Your Outlook**  
*(Philippians 1:27 – 2:18)*

**Part 1: Philippians 1:27-30**

## ***Basics for Believers***

1. Put the Gospel First (1:1-26)
2. Focus on the Cross (1:27 – 2:18; emphasis on 2:5-11)
3. Adopt Jesus' Death as a Test of Your Outlook  
(1:27 – 2:18; emphasis on 1:27-30; 2:1-4, 12-18)
4. Emulate Worthy Christian Leaders (2:19 – 3:21)
5. Never Give Up the Christian Walk (4:1-23)

# Outline for Lesson Three

Three implications that the cross has for believers who follow Christ Jesus:

1. We Are Called Not Only to Believe on Christ but Also to Suffer for Him (1:27-30)
2. We Are Called Not Only to Enjoy the Comforts of the Gospel but Also to Pass Them On (2:1-4)
3. We Are Called Not Only to Take Early Steps of Faith and Obedience but Also to Work Out Our Salvation Throughout our Lives (2:12-18)

## Philippians 1:27-28

*Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ ...*

Question 1: What does “only” mean? What is its significance?

- No matter what else happens, no matter the pressures or distractions or whatever that you’re experiencing, **certain things are central!**
- Above all else

## Philippians 1:27-28

*Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ ...*

Question 2: What does this not mean? What does it mean then?

- Does not mean to work our way to the point where we become worthy of the gospel
- Does not mean to try harder in order to secure something
- Does mean that because something has already been secured for us, that we should try harder **out of gratitude** and **out of frank recognition that this is what the gospel has saved us for**

## Philippians 1:27-28

... so that *whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents ...*

Question 3: What three aspects of our *manner of life* (or, *conduct*) does Paul have in mind that is worthy of the gospel?

- Consistent; non-duplicitous; integrity
- Unity
- Not frightened by our opponents

## Philippians 1:27-28

*... and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a **clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.***

- Sign from God of their destruction – marks out His enemies
- Sign from God of our salvation – marks out His children
- 2 Thessalonians 1:4-8

## Philippians 1:29-30

*For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only **believe in Him** but also **suffer for His sake**, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.*

Question 4: As believers in Christ, what has been granted to us for the sake of Christ?

- Salvation and suffering

## Philippians 1:29-30

*For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only **believe in Him** but also **suffer for His sake**, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.*

Question 5: What's the difference between Christ's suffering for us versus our suffering for Christ?

- Christ's suffering is:
  - the suffering of the God-man
  - the suffering of the One who enjoyed equality with God
  - the suffering that secured forgiveness for others
  - the suffering of a guiltless victim

## Philippians 1:29-30

*For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only **believe in Him** but also **suffer for His sake**, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.*

- Mark 8:34 – sober reality of following Christ
- Acts 5:40-42 – rejoicing in being counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name of Christ
- Suffering for Jesus' sake extends beyond physical persecution
  - Countless occasions to put aside self-interest for the sake of Christ
  - Making hard, moral decisions that costs us something
  - Resisting temptation to do something we want to do simply because resisting it was the right thing to do
  - Doing the above cheerfully because following Christ demands it

# Suffering for The Sake of Christ

Question 6 (last question): What are some real-life examples of **suffering for the sake of Jesus** that **do not** involve physical persecution but absolutely require dying to self, choosing obedience over comfort, and doing it with a willing heart?

# Suffering for The Sake of Christ – Ten Examples

## 1. Telling the truth when lying would protect your reputation

A Christian employee admits a mistake at work that could cost them a promotion. They refuse to shift blame or hide the error and accept the consequences without bitterness **because Christ calls them to integrity.**

## 2. Refusing to participate in workplace gossip

A believer steps away from a conversation that tears down a coworker. They lose social capital, are seen as “uptight,” and are excluded from the group – but they choose Christlike speech over fitting in **because Christ calls them to use their words to build others up and to reflect His holiness in every conversation.**

## 3. Remaining sexually pure when temptation is strong

Someone in a dating relationship chooses chastity, even though it costs them the relationship. They resist what they genuinely want **because obedience to Christ matters more than desire.**

# Suffering for The Sake of Christ – Ten Examples

## 4. Forgiving someone who never apologizes

A Christian forgives a family member who deeply wronged them. They give up the emotional satisfaction of resentment and the social advantage of being “the victim,” **because Christ commands forgiveness.**

## 5. Returning good for evil in a hostile environment

A believer is mocked at work for their faith – not violently, but with sarcasm, exclusion, or belittling. Instead of retaliating or withdrawing, they respond with patience, kindness, and consistent excellence **because Christ calls them to love their enemies and overcome evil with good.**

# Suffering for The Sake of Christ – Ten Examples

## 6. Choosing generosity when finances are tight

A Christian gives sacrificially to someone in need or to their church, even though it means delaying a purchase they really wanted. They feel the cost, but they give cheerfully **because Christ calls them to trust God's provision and to give as He has generously given to them.**

## 7. Refusing unethical business practices

A salesperson declines to manipulate customers or use deceptive tactics, even though “everyone does it” and it costs them commissions. They choose righteousness over financial gain **because Christ calls them to honesty and to conduct all their work as service to Him.**

# Suffering for The Sake of Christ – Ten Examples

## 8. Breaking off a friendship that pulls them toward sin

A believer ends a long-standing friendship because the relationship continually pressures them toward destructive habits. It hurts deeply, but they choose holiness over comfort **because Christ calls them to flee temptation and walk in purity of life.**

## 9. Speaking up for biblical truth in a setting where it's unpopular

A Christian student respectfully voices a biblical conviction in class, knowing it may cost them approval, grades, or opportunities. They do it humbly, not combatively, **because loyalty to Christ matters more than acceptance.**

## 10. Serving in hidden, thankless ways

A believer consistently cares for an elderly parent, a disabled spouse, or a difficult church member. No applause, no recognition, no visible reward – just quiet, costly faithfulness **because Christ sees.**

# Suffering for The Sake of Christ – Ten Family Examples

## 1. Choosing patience with a difficult family member

A Christian consistently responds with gentleness to a parent, sibling, or in law who is demanding, critical, or emotionally draining. They give up the “right” to snap back **because Christ calls them to love.**

## 2. Refusing to escalate conflict in marriage

A spouse chooses to stay calm, listen, and speak kindly during an argument – even when they feel misunderstood or wronged. They sacrifice the satisfaction of “winning” **because Christ values peace and humility.**

## 3. Honoring parents even when they’re imperfect

An adult child continues to show respect, help with needs, and speak graciously to aging parents who may be controlling, ungrateful, or difficult. They do it not because the parents deserve it, but **because Christ commands honor.**

# Suffering for The Sake of Christ – Ten Family Examples

## 4. Setting godly boundaries with a loved one

A believer lovingly confronts a family member's destructive behavior – addiction, manipulation, or irresponsibility. They endure guilt, misunderstanding, and relational strain **because obedience to Christ requires truth and love, not enabling.**

## 5. Choosing purity and faithfulness in marriage

A spouse resists pornography, emotional affairs, or flirtation at work. They deny real temptation **because Christ calls them to covenant faithfulness**, even when no one else would know.

# Suffering for The Sake of Christ – Ten Family Examples

## 6. Forgiving a deep relational wound

A Christian forgives a betrayal, harsh words, or years of neglect. They surrender bitterness and the emotional “leverage” that comes from being the wronged party, suffering the internal cost of releasing the debt, **because Christ forgave them first and calls them to extend the same mercy.**

## 7. Raising children in the faith despite exhaustion

A parent chooses to pray with their kids, bring them to church, discipline consistently, and model Christlike character – even when they’re tired, stressed, or discouraged – **because Christ entrusted these children to them and calls them to disciple the next generation.** The suffering is the daily sacrifice of comfort for discipleship.

# Suffering for The Sake of Christ – Ten Family Examples

## 8. Choosing honesty in a relationship when lying would be easier

A believer confesses a hidden sin, admits a mistake, or tells the truth about something painful. They risk disappointment, anger, or loss of trust **because Christ calls them to walk in the light.**

## 9. Loving a spouse through seasons of illness or depression

A Christian remains faithful, patient, and sacrificial when their spouse cannot reciprocate emotionally or physically. They carry the weight of the relationship for a time **because Christ carried them first.**

## 10. Choosing reconciliation over estrangement

A believer reaches out to a sibling or relative after years of distance. They risk rejection, awkwardness, or reopening old wounds **because Christ calls them to be peacemakers.**

# Suffering for The Sake of Christ

Each of these examples involves:

- Dying to self
- Choosing love over pride
- Obeying Christ when it costs something real
- Embracing hidden, quiet faithfulness
- Reflects the New Testament idea that following Christ often means costly, countercultural faithfulness.

This is the kind of suffering that forms Christlike character, often unnoticed by others, but **deeply precious to God**. And it is the *“manner of life (conduct) that is worthy of the gospel of Christ”* (1:27).

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