



March 10th Sermon Questions

Philippians Part I

Philippians 1: 27-30

Icebreaker: How often do you think about the Roman Empire?

Discussion Questions: **Read** the scripture verses above.

1. What does it mean to be a citizen of something?
2. The phrase “let your manner of life be worthy” (v. 27) can be translated as “behave as citizens worthy.” What nuance does the latter reading lend to this imperative? What are some dynamics of citizenship you think Paul intends for his readers to apply to their Christian lives?
3. What encouragements and/or reasons does Paul give to his readers for them to more fully embrace and follow the commands he is giving in these verses?
4. In his sermon, Justin said, "Empire shapes your identity." How have you been formed by the American experiment and the American dream, etc.? What other empires that you are a part of might be shaping you?
5. In what ways do the empires of our world lead us away from Christ and tempt us not to live our lives in a manner worthy of the gospel? What is so attractive about them?
6. What do you think it looks like practically to live as citizens of an alternative empire?

7. What values, priorities, and/or beliefs of worldly empires do you think you need to reject to follow Jesus more closely?
8. How does the allure of status fit into this conversation? How much time and energy do you spend trying to acquire or maintain status through your work, accomplishments, possessions, relationships, etc.?
9. In his sermon, Justin also said, "Community shapes your identity." Do you agree or disagree? How have you experienced this in your life?
10. What do you think a community of men, women, and children looks like that is "standing firm in one spirit, with one mind, contending side by side for the faith of the gospel" (v.27)?
11. How like-minded is your community? Are the people in your life encouraging you in your faith and making you more like Jesus or are they drawing you away from Him?
12. How can we help one another stand firm and live as citizens worthy of the gospel?
13. How is the good news of Jesus different from the dominant, cultural ones you experience on a daily basis?
14. What do you need to do this week to follow Jesus, be transformed by Jesus, and/or participate in the mission of Jesus?