

**Going Deeper - 8/8/2021**  
**Linda Stevens – Philippians Week 2**



*This week Pastor Linda addressed the reality of the tension between Biblical humility and unity and the current, cultural views and practices of them.*

*The anchor verse was Philippians 1:27-28b, “Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one Spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel, without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.” Paul then describes what that worthy manner looks like as he describes humility and unity in verses 2:1-8.*

*After reading through that section of scripture, consider the statements and questions Pastor Linda shared with us below:*

- 1. Be immovable as you are unified in God’s Spirit, struggling side by side against the enemies of the gospel with all your desires and emotions concentrated on that one task above all others.**
  - Even amidst struggle and persecution, am I immovable in my quest to protect the integrity of the gospel?
  - Do I see my sisters and brothers in the church as my enemies more than those who are subverting the gospel?
  
- 2. It is out of our communion with Christ that we are aligned, imbued with the capacity, and motivated beyond our flesh to be able to be humble and unified.**
  - This week, how will I pursue genuine fellowship with God?
  - As I commune with Him, I will open my spirit to His encouragement, comfort, tenderness, and compassion.
  - Do I really believe that from my union with Christ the Holy Spirit enables me to overcome the passions, emotions, and motivations of my flesh? How can I tap into that more?
  
- 3. We must be vigilant not to let our differences of opinion destroy an individual’s faith, dishearten participation in the fellowship of believers, pollute the testimony of the Church, or hamstring our mission to make disciples of all nations.**
  - What can I do to be a vessel of unity within this church - to strive for restoration and peace?
  - Is it easy for me to get on a bandwagon of complaining or arguing about the Church?
  - What attitude can I cultivate that will detract me from engaging in that behavior the next time I am tempted to do so?
  
- 4. “The Christian gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and snivelling.” Timothy Keller, The Reason For God**
  - Am I having a difficult time accepting the Biblical concept of humility? Why?
  - Do I tend to sway toward swaggering or snivelling? How can I still that swinging pendulum?