

# How to Live Worthily of the Gospel



Evangelical Free Church  
of the Palouse

Philippians 1:27-2:18

**Big Idea:** Paul describes 7 commands for living worthily of the gospel.

## Introduction

The intended passage for today's sermon is 2:12-18. However, verse 12 begins with "Therefore..." showing that this section is a continuation from what has preceded. The broader context for this passage begins at 1:27 and ends at 2:18. The central theme is "unity through humility" as a means of living worthily of the gospel.

## Text

Philippians 1:27-2:18

There are 7 imperative verbs (i.e. commands) that help form the outline:

1. Live worthily of the gospel (1:27)
2. Complete my joy (2:2)
3. Have this mind (2:5)
4. Work out your own salvation (2:12)
5. Do all things without grumbling and disputing (2:14)
6. and 7. Be glad and Rejoice with me (2:18)

## Main Point

As one reads through 1:27-2:18, it can be difficult to know what exactly is being emphasized. There are a lot of exhortations that sound like commands. However, the 7 commands above are the major verbs that Paul is using to exhort his readers. With this in mind, it's helpful to view the surrounding material as descriptions of what each command might look like when it's practically lived out.

The bulletin notes contain a table that illustrates the relationship between these commands ("What do I do?") and the surrounding material of each command ("How do I do it?"). The table is included on the following page.

The main point of this passage is "unity through humility" as a means of living worthily of the gospel. Special consideration should be given to Paul's description of Jesus' steps of humility (2:5-8) and what this looks like in our own lives and in our local church.

# Application

1. Consider Paul’s opening statement in 2:1. Take some time to praise God for how He’s given us these things in Jesus Christ.
2. Consider Jesus’ steps to humility in 2:5-8. Where are you along this path? Is there something you’ve been “grasping” and not letting go? Have you been putting yourself before others? How is God leading you further down the path of humility?
3. What is the opposite of “grumbling and disputing” (2:14)? How are you guilty of this and what can you do about it?

What do I do?	How do I do it?
1. Live worthily of the gospel (1:27)	Maintain a unified and resolute <b>ADVANCEMENT</b> of the gospel.
2. Complete my joy (2:2)	Be totally <b>UNIFIED</b> : mentally, emotionally, spiritually.
3. Have this mind (2:5)	Display the <b>HUMILITY</b> of Jesus Christ.  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>LET GO</b> of your rights.</li> <li>2. <b>TAKE ON</b> true servanthood.</li> <li>3. <b>OBEY</b> even when it hurts.</li> </ol>
4. Work out your own salvation (2:12)	Follow Christ’s model of humble, selfless, God-fearing <b>OBEDIENCE</b> .
5. Do all things without grumbling and disputing (2:14)	<b>SPEAK WORDS</b> that unify the Church, affirm other believers, and glorify God.
6. Be glad and Rejoice with me (2:18)	Maintain a unified and resolute <b>HOPE</b> in the present and future realities of the gospel.