

Settle it!

Settle your **RITUALS** Philippians 1:27-30

A ritual is a **SACRED** activity

*'Only **CONDUCT** yourselves in a manner **WORTHY** of the **GOSPEL OF CHRIST**'*

Conduct = To live the life of a good **CITIZEN**.

Worthy = **CONSISTENT** with, appropriate to

Gospel of Christ = I was a **SINNER** in need of God's grace and I have become a **CITIZEN** of His Kingdom.

*'I will hear that you are **STANDING FIRM** in one spirit, one mind **STRIVING TOGETHER**...'*

Standing Firm = **MILITARY** term 'don't leave your post!'

Striving together = Unity, **WRESTLE** in company, seek jointly

Key Point: To stand firm we need our **CONDUCT** be consistent with our **CONFESSION** Matt. 5:16

What are the **RITUALS** that strengthen my conduct?

We gather to listen to the **WORD OF GOD**

We gather to lift up Jesus through **WORSHIP**

We gather to **PRAY** for one another and our world

We gather to **REMEMBER** our spiritual history

We gather to **ENJOY** our spiritual past times

We gather to **PRODUCE** more followers

We gather with **INTENTIONALITY**,
spiritual **PREPAREDNESS**, and **PURPOSE**

Auburn Grace Community Church – March 20th, 2022

Philippians 1:27 *Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel*

DISCOVER (Read Philippians 1:27-30)

1. Team chemistry elevates performance. In your experience, what is "team chemistry"? How is it attained? What happens to unity when a team member is an idler or careless? Discuss the parallels with unity in the church.
2. When we "stand firm," we are refusing to change our attitudes or beliefs. What areas in your life do you stand firm on? Have you ever compromised on your resolve?
3. For most us, we are proud to be American citizens. What kind of language do we use that helps others to know this about us? Are you proud to be a citizen of Heaven? Compare and contrast the language you use of your dual citizenship.

EXPLORE

1. Read Ephesians 6:11-17. First putting on the full Armor of God is critical to engage in the spiritual battle. In vs. 11, 13 and 14, we find that we must "stand firm." Does this mean we must just simply take the punishment? Militarily speaking, is it possible to win a battle by not leaving your post?
2. There are approximately 163 instances of the word "remember" in the Books of Moses alone. Why has God repeated this admonition to remember so often? What American observances of historical accounts are imbedded into your memory? Why is remembering our spiritual history so significant?
3. In Philippians 1:27, Paul says that he will hear about the Philippian church "standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel." What did he mean by "striving together"? How can you "strive together" with the brethren at Auburn Grace?

EXPERIENCE

1. Are you enjoying your Christian experience? What collective Christian rituals, as identified by Pastor Phil, do you enjoy the most? Which of these rituals or practices has God provided to help you stand firm in the faith?
2. How do we discover the right practices for ourselves? Which practices should be universal? Might your practices be different than another's? What is the unifying theme? What might be some fears of promoting Christ?
3. What is your Christian confession? How well would you do if you only had one minute to share it? How does your confession of Christ match your everyday conduct?
4. What encouraging faith story do you have that you would like to share with your Life Group?

PRAY

Pray... Father in Heaven, I pray that I may keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace and conduct myself in a manner that is worthy of the gospel of Christ. I pray for all my brothers and sisters in Christ and ask that together we may stand firm in one spirit, with one mind - striving together for the faith of the gospel - to Your praise and glory, in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Action...Practice your "one minute" Confession of Faith and share it with your Life Group at your next meeting. Write down or journal a 5-minute confession.