

# Striving Together for the Faith

## Introduction

Philippians 1:27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind **striving together for the faith of the gospel,**

### 1. **Division in the church is an awful thing.**

- A. One of the most unfortunate results of the division in Corinth was the obstacle this presented to the work of the congregation in doing its work of evangelism and edification.**

1 Corinthians 1:11-12 For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ."

1 Corinthians 3:3-4 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?

### 2. **When members of the body of Christ are not working together, and are divided, there can be little productive results.**

### 3. **We must strive together in unity in the Lord's work.**

**1 Corinthians 15:58**

**2 Timothy 2:15**

#### **4. We must also “strive together” to be unified.**

Philippians 1:27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you **stand fast in one spirit, with one mind** striving together for the faith of the gospel,

#### **5. This morning we will examine the expression “striving together for the faith of the gospel” and answer the questions what does this expression mean, and what does it require of each one of us?**

### **The Meaning of Striving Together for the Faith of the Gospel**

- 1. There is a good chance that we most likely do not pay much attention to the “together” aspect of Christianity.**
- 2. To be a Christian is to be involved in a “fellowship.”**
  - A. This means a “horizontal relationship” with other Christians can’t be separated from a “vertical relationship” with God.**

1 John 1:3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may **have fellowship with us**; and truly **our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.**

1 John 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot **also loves him who is begotten of Him.**

### 3. **We participate in a “common salvation” and we share a “precious faith.”**

#### **Jude 3**

2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those **who have obtained like precious faith** with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

- A. We are workers in a common cause.**
- B. We have a common enemy.**
- C. It is necessary that we have unity in general.**

1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that **you all speak the same thing**, and that **there be no divisions among you**, but that you **be perfectly joined together** in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Ephesians 4:2-3 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, (3) endeavoring to **keep the unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace.

Colossians 3:14 But above all these things **put on love**, which is the bond of perfection.

- D. We especially need a unity of spirit in regard to our work.**

Nehemiah 4:6 So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for **the people had a mind to work**.

- E. We are to think of ourselves as “fellow workers.”**  
**3 John 8**

4. **We also are to have a spirit of comradery. Paul spoke of his brethren in this way:**

**SEE CHARTS**

**2 Corinthians 8:23; Philippians 1:5; 2:25; 4:3;  
Colossians 4:7, 10; 1 Thessalonians 3:2; Philemon 1, 24.**

## **Requirements of Striving Together for the Faith of the Gospel**

1. **Together we must:**

- A. **Be “sanctified” in God’s truth**

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

- B. **Grow toward spiritual maturity**

**Ephesians 4:11-16**

- C. **Have a sensitive regard for each other’s conscience.**

**Romans 14:1-3, 10, 19; 15:1-2**

- D. **Be dedicated to the work of mutual burden-bearing.**

**Galatians 6:1-2**

- E. **Eliminate self-centeredness, pettiness, jealousy, envy, gossip, and factions.**

**Romans 12:10**

Philippians 2:3-4 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

2. **Together, we must be motivated by a common vision of our work.**
  - A. **Those who are willing to work together will do GREAT good!**

Nehemiah 2:18 And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to this good work.

## Conclusion

1. **Whatever other benefits there may be to striving together, there is certainly a strength to be found that we cannot have any other way.**

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

2. **May we all strive to work toward having a conduct "worthy of the gospel of Christ" – and may we:**

**"stand fast in one spirit, with one mind  
striving together for the faith of the gospel."**

# Invitation

**Place** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Striving Together for the Faith.wpd  
Richard Thetford, July 2016 (Based on a lesson by Gary Henry)