



WHATEVER HAPPENS! "Stand Firm" Philippians 1:20-30

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Life is made up of actions and reactions. Sometimes we act and produce consequences, other times things happen, then we react. Christians are called to react "in a manner worthy of the gospel" whatever happens! This is a major challenge that needs exploring.

I. Whatever Happens: Some Possibilities.

- A. In the broadest sense, there are only two: life and death! v. 20
- B. In a detailed sense, there are many possibilities.
 1. Political possibilities: "I am in chains." v. 17
 2. Natural possibilities: earthquakes. Acts 16:26
 3. Ideological possibilities: "Watch out for those dogs." 3:2
 4. Physiological possibilities: "He was ill and almost died." 2:27
 5. Relational possibilities: "Euodia...Syntyche...agree." 4:2
 6. Financial possibilities: "Not one church shared with me..." 4:15

II. Whatever Happens: Stand Firm.

- A. Stand firm by developing a Christian attitude to life and death. vv. 21-24
 1. "For to me to live is Christ..."
 2. "...and to die is gain." v. 21
- B. Stand firm by recognizing that life is more than personal preferences. v. 27a
 1. "Conduct yourselves" = "politeusthe" = "live as a citizen."
 2. Accept rights, privileges, duties, and responsibilities.
- C. Stand firm by behaving in a manner worthy of the gospel. v. 27b
 1. A gospel that is based on a cross.
 2. A gospel that sacrifices for the benefit of others.
- D. Stand firm by nurturing supportive relationships: "in one spirit." v. 27c
- E. Stand firm by being sure of what you believe: "contending for the faith." v. 27d
- F. Stand firm by refusing to be intimidated: "without being frightened." v. 28
 1. This is a sign to opponents that they "will be destroyed."
 2. This is an indication to you that you will be saved.
- G. Stand firm by embracing suffering as a gift "on behalf of Christ." v. 29
 1. Identification with Christ means identification with His suffering.
 2. Suffering for Christ is a divinely granted privilege.

Points to Ponder: What do my reactions reveal about my inner life?