

Real Simple

III: Our _____ should be God's Truth
"... for the faith of the gospel;"

Faith can mean a lot of different things. It can mean *moral conviction of God's truth; a reliance upon Christ for salvation; or a system of religious truth itself ... i.e. the Gospel.*

Based upon the wording and context, the third meaning is likely what Paul had in mind.

A. the _____ of the Gospel
Romans 1:16 ... ***For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.***

B. the _____ of the Gospel
Regarding that system of religious beliefs also known as the Gospel, we find basic, yet not exclusive fundamentals. 1) the Deity of Jesus 2) the Virgin birth of Jesus 3) the Blood Atonement of Jesus 4) the Bodily Resurrection of Jesus 5) the inerrancy of the Scriptures and 6) salvation by grace through faith in Jesus.

And as we look towards 2021, our goal is to share with Kalispell and Evergreen the simple message that VBC is a real church, comprised of real people, who've trusted in Jesus. And the way we do church is real simple ... we desire to reflect Jesus, be unified in one spirit with one mind, and strive together with God ... to share Christ to the lost.



January 17, 2021

Phil. 1:27
Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

For the last two weeks we've looked towards our theme to identify what VBC's message will be to Flathead Valley, Kalispell, and Evergreen. And we have looked at the topic of what it is to be a real church made up of real people.

This morning, we are going to discover that God's design for His church is not complicated but is in fact, real simple.

Real Simple

I: Our lives should _____ Jesus Christ
“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ:”

While some proclaim Christ, unfortunately their life doesn't reflect Christ. We find three words that show us what it is to reflect Jesus.

A. _____ = citizenship

Speaks to who and what we are. As citizens of the Kingdom of God, our behavior and beliefs should reflect Jesus Christ because it is through Jesus that we are citizens. 1 Cor. 6:19-20

B. _____ = worthy

As a citizen of the kingdom of God, we should act accordingly.

C. _____ = good message / good news of Christ

The general thought is, that as citizens of the kingdom of God, we should behave worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There are times when this is very difficult, especially considering the culture that we live in. It can be hard to live for and reflect Jesus when it seems the entire world is resisting and moving against Jesus. None-the-less, as hard as it may be, the principle is still simple—a real church, that is to say a Biblical church, reflects Jesus. His love, His compassion, His holiness, and His truths.

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II: Our church should _____ in unity
“...that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together...”

Apparently there was some disunity in the church at Philippi which is why Paul encourages them to demonstrate the Gospel in their behavior. And he gives three areas for them to persevere in unity.

A. unity in one _____

Spirit = vital principles / rationale / mental disposition

B. unity with one _____

Mind as translated directly from the Hebrew means heart, soul, mind (thinking), life

C. unity in one _____

Striving = laboring

The simple point is, a real church should be laboring together in the same principles, with the same thinking, and in the same work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Nothing brings dishonor to Christ like a church that is not unified.
