



Thinking Right-Side Up
In an **Upside-Down** World

...about My Lifestyle

(Philippians 1:27-30)

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Week 5
2/4/18

Introduction: Does your lifestyle “fit” or “match” the good news of Jesus?

4 Benchmarks of a Proper “Good News” Lifestyle

A “Good News” Lifestyle is...

- CONVINCED, not INDECISIVE (1:27-28a).

- COMMUNAL, not INDIVIDUAL (1:27).

- CONSCIENTIOUS, not INDIFFERENT (1:27).

- WILLING to SUFFER, not PAMPERED (1:29-30).

Conclusion:

- So, those are the benchmarks. Are you willing to take a good hard look at the life you are actually living to see if it measures up?
- May we be people who choose a lifestyle perfectly suited to the good news of Jesus, and if we don't, may God not let us rest until we do!



Icebreakers:

1. What is your favorite Olympic event to watch on TV and why?
2. How would you describe the "regional lifestyle" of Central New Yorkers? What are the values and experiences that tie us together?

Sermon Summary: Paul expects us to make sure we understand that our lifestyle (the values, goals, and choices that we live by) is "in sync" with the good news about Jesus. To help us judge how we're doing, he gives us four benchmarks in this passage to help us measure how closely our own personal lifestyle matches the lifestyle of the "good news."

Discussion Questions: (*Read Philippians 1:27-30 together.*)

1. How should we as believers be different from the world around us? What should they be able to see in our lives that proves we are good citizens of God's kingdom?

*** Benchmark #1: Convinced, not Indecisive**

2. What are some of the common "pressures" that we face as we try to stand firm for what we believe?
3. What are some things that we can be (and NEED to be) 100% convinced about as citizens of God's country?

*** Benchmark #2: Communal, not Individual**

4. Play the devil's advocate for a minute. What heartaches could you save yourself if you could do your Christianity solo?
5. It's undeniable that choosing to "do life" with other believers gets messy in a hurry. Why does God demand that we do it anyway?

*** Benchmark #3: Conscientious, not Indifferent**

6. "Strive" in verse 27 means to compete in such a way that you can win. What is the "WIN" that we're reaching for as God's citizens?
7. Why do we struggle to truly engage, to give God and our mission for God everything we've got, to hold nothing back?

*** Benchmark #4: Conscientious, not Indifferent**

8. Can you think of a time when you realized that suffering for Jesus was actually a gift, or a privilege? Tell a few stories...