

Faith Talk - Feb. 22, 2026

Series: Philippians: Together for the Gospel

Sermon: Integrity: Grow and Serve for the Gospel

Scripture: Philippians 2:12-30

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, so now, not only in my presence but even more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose.

Sermon Summary

Sunday's sermon (Philippians 2:12-30) explored the critical role of integrity in being a church that God uses to spread the Gospel, building on previous themes of confidence in God's sovereignty, joy in challenges, and humility with one another.

Paul challenges the Philippians to "work out their salvation with fear and trembling." The message clarifies that working out salvation doesn't mean earning it, but rather bringing about its intended outcome: reflecting the person and living out the purpose of Jesus Christ.

This requires surrendering to God with reverent awe (Ps. 47:2), recognizing that He is the one working both the desire and ability to obey in us. Paul emphasizes that spiritual maturity produces unity without grumbling, enabling believers to "shine like stars" by holding fast to the Gospel.

Through Jesus (Phil. 2:5-11), himself, and the examples of Timothy and Epaphroditus, Paul demonstrates what humble, mature, and integrity-filled ministry looks like: people who genuinely care more about others' spiritual progress than their own comfort or recognition.

Paul challenges this church to grow in several ways:

1. A life of integrity and authentic faith (v. 12)
2. Reverent and awe-inspired attitude toward God (v. 12)
3. A surrendered faith toward God's will and purpose (v. 13)
4. Be in unity as a church, without grumbling and arguing (v. 14)
5. Shine as children of God by holding fast to the word of life (v. 15-16)

Discussion Questions

Conversations with Adults

1. The sermon defines integrity as "doing what is right, even when no one is watching, even if it requires patience and personal sacrifice." In what areas of your life does your behavior change depending on who's watching (e.g., home vs. church, private vs. public)? What does this reveal about where you need to grow in integrity?

2. Paul says God works both the desire ("will") and the ability ("work") to obey in us. How does understanding this change your approach to spiritual growth? What role does surrender play in your daily walk with God? How can you nurture the awe-inspiring reality of who God is so that your affections are stirred to surrender to Him?
3. The sermon emphasizes that the intended outcome of salvation is not just to go to heaven but to reflect the person and live the purposes of Jesus. How would you describe the "intended outcome" of your salvation in practical terms? Is it being worked out in your daily life?

Conversations with Students

1. Think about your online life versus your offline life, or your behavior at church versus at school. Where do you struggle most with integrity, being the same person regardless of who's watching?
2. Paul says we should work out our salvation "with fear and trembling," meaning with awe and reverence for God. When was the last time you felt genuine awe at who God is? How did (or could) that change your behavior?
3. The Philippian church was known for unity without grumbling and arguing. What causes the most grumbling or arguing in your friend groups, and how could putting others first change that dynamic?

Conversations with Kids

1. The sermon uses the example of a dog that only obeys when Pastor Brian is watching. When are you most tempted to disobey or make wrong choices? What helps you remember God is always watching?
2. Paul says believers should "shine like stars." What does it mean to shine for God? How can you be a light at school or with your friends?
3. Timothy and Epaphroditus cared more about helping others than about themselves. Who is someone you could help this week, even if it's hard or you don't feel like it?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the work You are doing in us, creating both the desire and the ability to obey You. We're grateful that salvation is not just about going to heaven someday but about reflecting Your person and purpose now.

We ask for help in developing true integrity—authentic faith that remains consistent whether we're being watched or not. Give us a reverent, awe-inspired attitude toward You that transforms how we live. Help us to surrender daily to Your will and purposes, recognizing that our work is not to accomplish obedience in our own strength but to maintain a posture of surrender to You.

We commit to growing in spiritual maturity that produces unity without grumbling, so we can shine like stars in a dark and crooked world. Help us to hold fast to the Word of Life, the Gospel that unites us and matures us. May we, like Jesus, Paul, Timothy, and Epaphroditus, demonstrate individual humility and integrity that produce church unity toward effective ministry. In Jesus' name, Amen.