

*<sup>17</sup> Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. <sup>18</sup> For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup> Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. 4 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!*

### **Questions:**

1. Pastor Jonathan talked about the church in Philippi feeling the pressure to compromise to the culture around them. In Philippians 3:17-4:1 Paul encouraged and warned the church to stand firm. What signs do you see in our current culture and politics for the Church to compromise?

### **Standing Firm by Following the Pattern of Distinctive Citizenship**

2. In Philippi, Roman citizenship was a source of pride and privileges, not unlike Canadian citizenship today. In order to stand firm in partnership, we are reminded that our citizenship is in Heaven (vs 20). If we are clear on our allegiance to Heaven above anything else, then we are ready to stand firm. What are some practical ways we can become clearer on our allegiance?

### **Standing Firm by Following the Pattern of Distinctive Worship**

3. In vs. 18 and 19, Paul warns believers "with tears" that many of them have set their minds on earthly things and worshiped their own appetites. Pastor Jonathan quoted Calvin: "Hearts are idol factories." Even "good" things can become idols in a believer's heart, e.g. family, career, etc. Often the top three idols tend to be money, sex and power. What are some early signs of when an idol may be starting to get a grip on your heart?

### **Standing Firm by Following the Pattern of Distinctive Hope**

4. Millennials are said to be a generation lacking in hope and believing they won't have it as good as their parents. Perhaps it's because today's culture is similar to what is described in vs. 19. Read vs. 19-21, and Phil. 4:1. What is so distinctive about the hope available to us as believers?