**Welcome to Philippians: Serving & Suffering Joyfully**

**Session 6, Part 1: How to Be Tender & Tough**

**Philippians 1:27-2:4**

**Verse 27: “Only”**

* Gospel:
  + love
  + justice
  + humility
  + liberty

***Believers are making a statement not only with our lips but also with our lives!***

**Tough: Withstanding External Pressure (1:27b-30)**

**Teamwork (1:27b)**

* “Stand firm in one spirit”
  + soldiers
* “Work side by side”
  + athletes

***Remember: we’re in a battle with each other, not against each other (Philippians 4:2-3)!***

**Purpose & Fearlessness (1:27c-28a)**

* positive
* negative

***Expect Adversaries & Opposition (1 Corinthians 16:8-9)***

**Sign (1:28b)**

* two-way sign:
  + confrontation
  + confirmation

***“Thumbs down” to those who persecute; “Thumbs up” to those who persevere!***

**Suffering (1:29-30)**

* gift?
  + sense of assurance you belong to Christ
  + brings you closer to Christ
  + equips you to rejoice in suffering

***Suffering for Christ’s sake is as much a gift from God as salvation is!***