

Philippians 1:27-28

A Reed-Kellogg Sentence Diagram With Notes

²⁷ Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; ²⁸ in no way alarmed by your opponents — which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God.

New American Standard Bible (NASB), 2020 update — Philippians 1:27-28

Notes from the Charles Caldwell Ryrie Study Bible

1:27-29 conduct — A political term meaning “live as citizens” (of heaven, 3:20). To do this, believers should stand, strive, and suffer.

Three imperatives implied by the note

STAND

“standing firm in one spirit” — fixed position, unmoved by pressure.

STRIVE

“with one mind striving together for the faith” — shared, athletic effort.

SUFFER

“in no way alarmed by your opponents” — fearless under opposition.

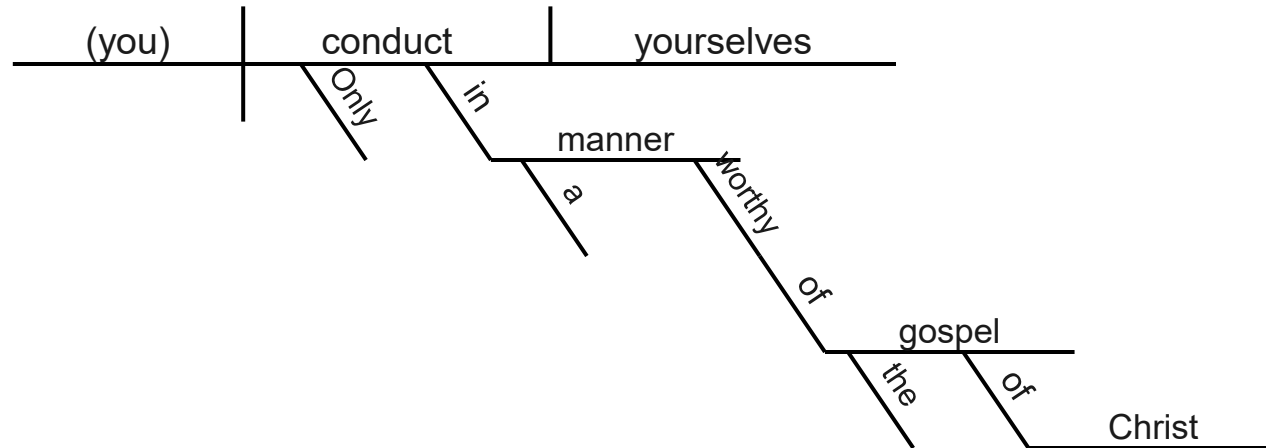
The Sentence

Verses 27-28 form one long sentence. Below it is broken down by clause and by phrase.

A Main clause (imperative)	<i>(You) conduct yourselves</i>	Understood subject “you”; verb “conduct”; reflexive direct object “yourselves.”
B Adverb + prepositional phrases	<i>Only / in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ</i>	“Only” modifies the verb; “in a manner” modifies the verb; “worthy” modifies “manner”; “of the gospel” modifies “worthy”; “of Christ” modifies “gospel.”
C Subordinate adverb clause	<i>so that ... whether I come and see you or remain absent</i>	Purpose clause; inside it a compound “whether ... or” concessive clause with compound verbs “come and see ... or remain.”
D Independent clause	<i>I will hear of you</i>	Subject “I”; verb “will hear”; prepositional phrase “of you.”
E Noun clause — direct object of “will hear”	<i>that you are standing firm in one spirit</i>	Introduced by “that”; subject “you”; verb “are standing”; “firm” and “in one spirit” modify the verb.
F Participial phrase modifying “you”	<i>with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel</i>	“striving” is a participle; “together” and the phrases “with one mind” and “for the faith of the gospel” modify it.
G Participial phrase (v. 28) modifying “you”	<i>in no way alarmed by your opponents</i>	“alarmed” is a participle; “in no way” and “by your opponents” modify it.
H Relative clause (v. 28)	<i>which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God</i>	Subject “which”; linking verb “is”; predicate noun “sign”; compound prepositional modifiers joined by “but.”

Diagram — Verse 27a: The Main Imperative

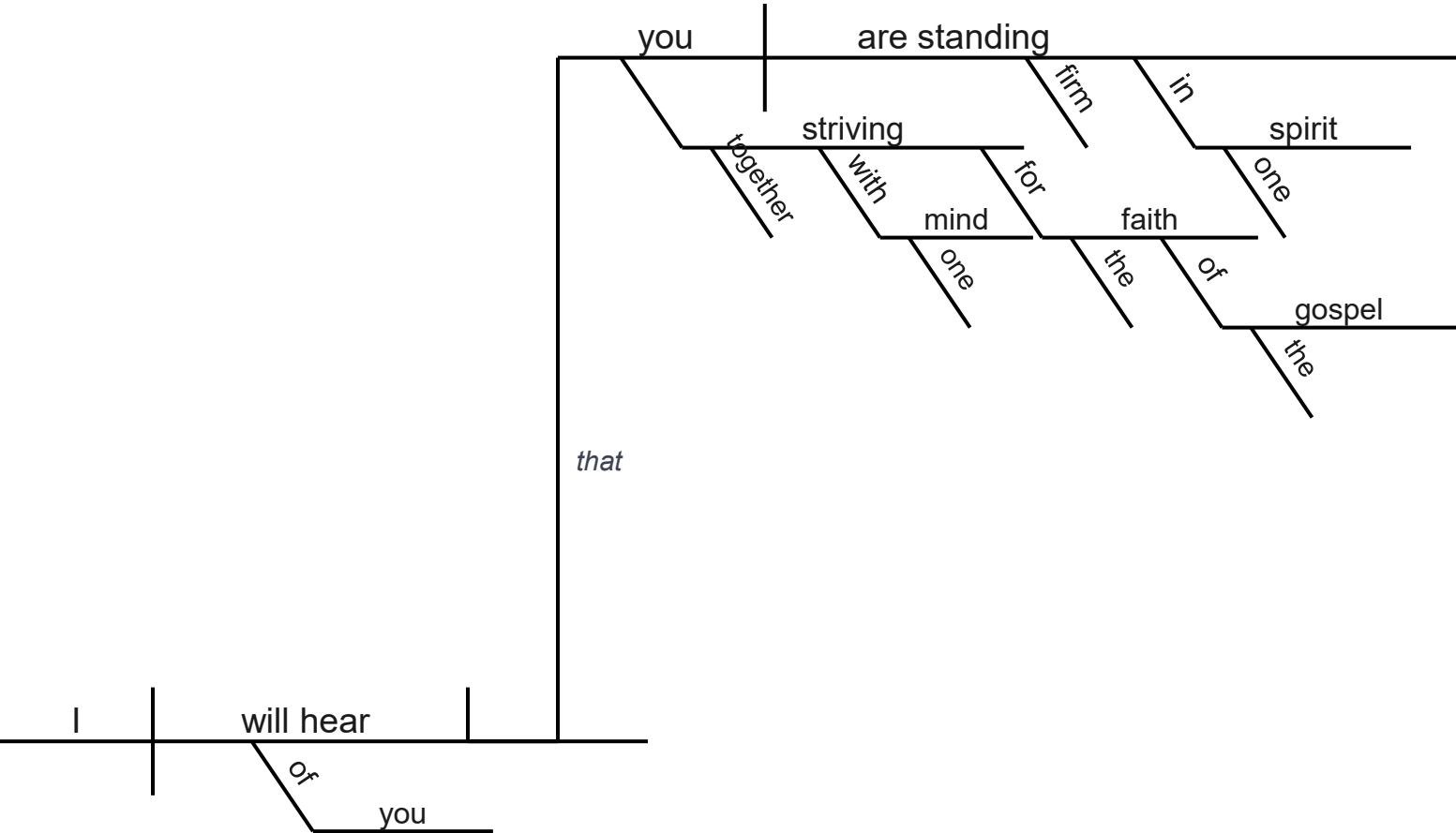
“Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ”



Notes on this diagram

- The sentence is a command, so the subject “you” is understood and is written in parentheses.
- The vertical line through the baseline separates subject from verb.
- The short vertical line that stops at the baseline marks the direct object, “yourselves.”
- “Only” is an adverb on a slanted line under the verb.
- Each prepositional phrase steps down: preposition on the slant, object on the horizontal line.

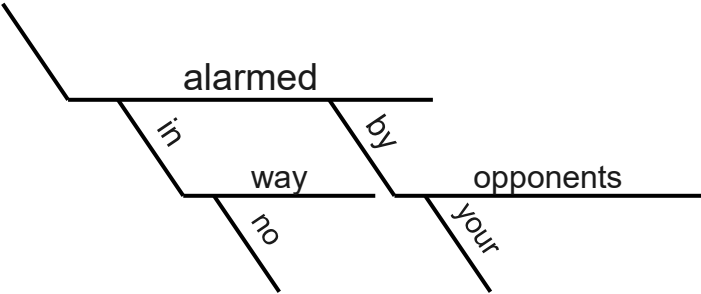
Diagram — Verse 27b: “I will hear ... that you are standing firm”



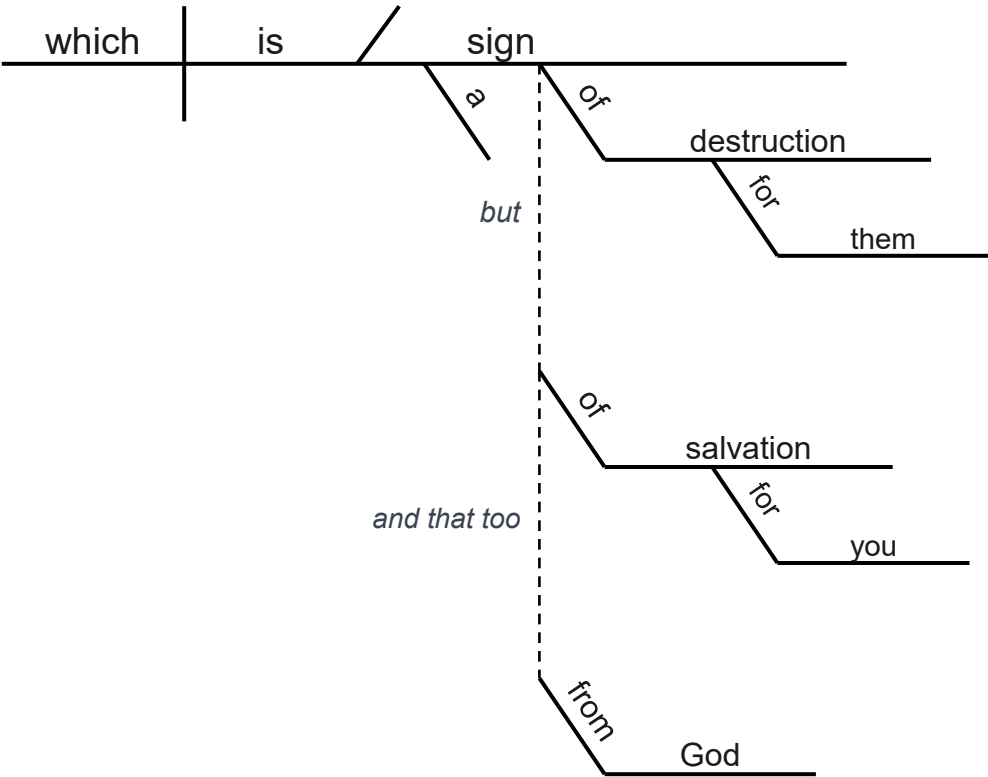
- The whole clause “that you are standing firm” is the direct object of “will hear,” so it rides on a stand above the main baseline.
- “that” is only a connector, so it sits loose on the stand.
- “striving” is a participle, drawn on a bent line under the word it modifies.

Diagram — Verse 28: “in no way alarmed ... which is a sign”

Participial phrase modifying “you” (v. 27)



Relative clause



- “alarmed” hangs on a bent participle line because it describes “you,” the understood subject carried over from verse 27.
- In the relative clause, the back-slanted line before “sign” marks a predicate noun renaming the subject “which.”
- Dashed lines carry the connectors “but” and “and that too,” which join the parallel prepositional phrases under “sign.”

How to Read the Diagram

The Reed-Kellogg conventions used on the preceding pages

Baseline

The horizontal line carries the skeleton of the clause: subject, verb, and any direct object or predicate noun.

Vertical line through the baseline

Separates the complete subject from the complete predicate. It cuts across the baseline.

Short vertical line on the baseline

Stops at the baseline and marks the direct object (“yourselves”).

Back-slanted line

Leans back toward the subject and marks a predicate noun or adjective after a linking verb (“is ... a sign”).

Slanted lines below the baseline

Carry single-word modifiers: adjectives, articles, and adverbs, placed under the word they modify.

Stepped line (slant + horizontal)

A prepositional phrase. The preposition rides the slant; its object rides the horizontal line, with its own modifiers below.

Bent line

A participle or participial phrase, curving down from the noun it modifies (“striving,” “alarmed”).

Stand (raised platform)

A noun clause used as a subject or object is diagrammed on its own baseline, lifted above the main line on a stand.

Dashed line

Carries connectors: subordinating words such as “that,” and coordinating words such as “but,” linking parallel elements.

Words in parentheses

Words that are understood rather than written, such as the subject “(you)” of a command.

The Value of Diagramming Scripture Verses As Part of Your Bible Study

1 It slows you down

Diagramming forces you to handle every single word instead of skimming a familiar passage.

2 It reveals the main point

The baseline shows the core assertion — here, a single command: “(You) conduct yourselves.” Everything else supports it.

3 It untangles long sentences

Paul writes long, layered sentences. A diagram sorts main clauses from subordinate ones so the argument becomes visible.

4 It anchors interpretation in grammar

Seeing which word a phrase actually modifies keeps application tied to the text rather than to assumption.

5 It exposes what you skipped

Any word you cannot place is a word you have not yet understood — the diagram makes the gap obvious.

6 It aids memory and teaching

The visual structure is easier to recall and gives a ready-made outline for a lesson or sermon.

Donnie's Copilot Instructions for This Project

Diagram Philippians 1:27-28 (NASB 2012 Translation) using the Reed-Kellogg Sentence Diagram Method; make the first page header, "Philippians 1:27-28," and the sub-header, "A Reed-Kellogg Sentence Diagram With Notes." Quote the 2 verses below the sub-header, showing verse numbers in superscript. Add a page entitled, "Notes from the Charles Caldwell Ryrie Study Bible" and include: "1:27-29 conduct - A political term meaning "live as citizens" (of heaven, 3:20). To do this, believers should stand, strive, and suffer." Add a page entitled, "The Sentence," and show the breakdown by clauses and phrases. Add a page after the diagrams entitled, "How to Read the Diagram," explaining the Reed-Kellogg conventions used on the preceding pages. Add Slide Numbers to each slide (except for Slide #1), using Bold Black Arial 12 fonts in the lower right corner for the slide numbers. Add a page entitled, "Donnie's Copilot Instructions for This Project," and include all the instructions I have typed here for Copilot, as well as a sentence telling which template, theme, or organization style and background and color scheme is used for this presentation. Add an additional page entitled, "The Value of Diagramming Scripture Verses As Part of Your Bible Study," and provide several reasons regarding how this could be beneficial.

Design used for this presentation

No organization template or brand theme was applied; this deck uses a custom "Clean White Academic Blue" style built for this project — a plain white background with a navy header band, navy (1F3864) headings, medium blue (2E5C8A) accents, thin light-grey (C9CDD3) rules and card borders, pale blue-grey (F7F9FC) panels, near-black body text, and Arial throughout, with all sentence diagrams drawn as black line work.

Note: the passage quoted is Philippians 1:27-28 in the New American Standard Bible; the NASB updates are 1995 and 2020 (there is no 2012 edition).