

GSM

Philippians 3:17-21

I. Philippians 3:17

A. Brethren, join together in following my example

1. **Brethren-** Gr. **adelphos-** *sharing the same womb.* We must always keep in mind when dealing with people problems within the church that it is a family problem we are dealing with. Those who are in the church and are born again are our brethren.

2. **join together-** Gr. **summimetes-** *to mimic together-* A mime is one who let's their actions do the talking. We are to let our actions do most of our talking. St. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the gospel, and if necessary use words."

3. Paul understood as a spiritual leader that people were looking to him as an example. We in leadership all are an example. We only determine what kind of example we are. When it comes to people, more is caught, than taught.

a. Paul's example was to live out of union with Christ and from the power of His grace. He lived a holy life but one that was lived under grace instead of under the Law. A life under the Law produces pride and envy. A life of grace produces humility and love and servant hood.

b. Legalists back then as they do today make the claim that a holy life can only be lived by an adherence to a code of right and wrong. Paul showed he lived a more holy life than the legalists by being led by the Spirit of Christ and trusting Christ to express His nature and life in and through Him. His focus was not on rules but upon the person of Jesus Christ.

B. and mark them- Gr. **skopeo-** *to examine closely* - to set your scope upon them

1. Our lives were meant to be examined. God examines them and people are to examine them.

2. Some ministers can not stand to be examined because they do not want what they are doing secretly to be found out.

a. **John 3:20-21-** We will not be afraid of being examined when our works done in and through God that dwells in us.

3. We are to put our scope on two kinds of people according to the New Testament

a. those who **walk in grace and faith- vs. 17-** We are to follow them.

b. those who **make divisions and offenses**- **Rom. 16:17**- These are those who are in the flesh and who are in legalism- We are to avoid them.

C. who have us as a pattern- Gr. **tupos**- *we get our word type from this word- This word means strike something hard enough to leave an impression or mark.*

1. You have not really set an example that lasts until you have made an impact on someone.
2. Paul left a lasting impact upon believers wherever he went. His lifestyle made an impact. His preaching and teaching left an impact. Have we left a lasting impact on anyone?
3. When we have been impacted by others we will tend to follow after their example.

II. Philippians 3:18

A. For many are walking- pres. tense. - There are many today walking the same way

B. as I have told you often and now tell you- Paul repeatedly warned against the dangers of legalism and warned of those who would try to bring them under the legalism. Where ever Paul preached, legalists would follow him and try to convince His converts to come under the Law and legalism and thus spoil the gospel of grace and cut off the divine flow of Christ in them.

C. with tears- Gr. **kliao**- *sobs and loud cries*- Paul knew just how damaging legalism was to a believer's life and it caused him great lament to see God's beloved saints thrown into the mud of human performance and will-worship.

D. enemies of the cross of Christ- those who try to become like God by their works and performance to a code of rules are enemies of the cross. Those who are bent upon fixing the old man and rehabilitating him are enemies of the cross. If you can become like God by doing the right things and avoiding the wrong things then Jesus did not have to die! We had that system under the Law. All the world religions have that system! The cross was God's estimation upon our old man- our old identity. We were not able to be rehabilitated. We were rotten to the core and thus only worthy to be put out of the way entirely. By the cross we received not only forgiveness but a totally new identity and nature. From this nature true and genuine holiness and godliness is brought forth as fruit.

III. Philippians 3:19

A. Whose end is destruction- Gr. *apoleia*- *ruin*

1. Those who are enemies of the cross will experience eternal ruin in the lake of fire.
2. At the Great White Throne Judgment those who appeared to be the most pious will be found to be the greatest sinners.
 - a. **Matt. 23:14**- The Pharisees will receive the greater judgment.
 - b. Paul states that he was the "chief" of sinners- **1 Tim. 1:15**- This was because Paul was the most self righteous person there was.
 - c. Religious people are the biggest sinners to God, not the prostitutes and drunks.

B. whose God is their belly

1. The belly speaks of being controlled by fleshly appetites.
 - a. money
 - b. sex
 - c. fame
 - d. addictions
 - e. the acceptance and praise of man- This is a chief desire in a legalist
2. A person in legalism will be controlled by inward desires but will try to conceal them outwardly. The Law stirs up desires in a person.

Rom. 7:8

C. Whose glory is in their shame

1. Paul boasted in what he now called **dog food**! All his good works were really shameful things that were as filthy rags to God!
2. men boast and prize things that are an abomination to God
 - a. **Luke 16:15**- What is highly esteemed among men is an abomination with God.
 - b. men greatly long for and prize position, power, and esteem from man- Jesus shunned these things in order to receive glory from God. **John 5:41, John 5:44**

D. who set their mind on earthly things

1. The carnal mind is set upon earthly things and produces death-
Romans 8:5
2. Many think that only those who think about sinning are carnal. If your mind is set upon things you have to do or refrain from in order to be more like God then your mind is set upon earthly things and you are carnal. Paul called himself carnal and he never struggled with what we call the ugly side of the flesh- sexual sins, addictions, vices, etc.

3. A spiritual person has their mind set upon spiritual things [in Christ] and this produces life and peace- **Romans 8:6**
4. When you set your mind on Christ and who you are in Him and what you have by being in Him then you are spiritual and the Spirit will manifest these realities in you and you will experience the fruit of sanctification and holiness- **Romans 6:22**
5. **Col. 3:1**- We are to set our minds and thoughts on things above and not on the things of the earth. A mind that is set upon our identification with Christ will lead us to live heavenly lives.

IV. Philippians 3:20

- A. **for our citizenship is in heaven**- Gr. **politeulomai**- *citizenship*.
 1. Paul uses this term because Philippi was a colony of Rome and one born in the city was a citizen of Rome even though they were in Philippi.
 2. Even though we are on the earth, our citizenship is in Heaven. We are born from above and our identification is in Christ.
 3. Our birth certificate is the Holy Spirit in us.
 - a. He is the seal of our new birth
- B. **we look for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ**- Gr. **apekdechomai**- *to look away from one direction and look expectantly at another*
 1. Many Christians today have their eyes glued to the things of this world and to the economy.
 2. We must the conscious decision to take our gaze away from these things and place it upon our Savior.
 3. Jesus is coming soon! Those who have this hope or vision of the Savior will live sanctified- **1 John 3:3**

V. Philippians 3:21

- A. **Who shall change**- Gr. **metaschimatizo**- *a change of place or condition*
 1. We will experience at the rapture of the church both a change in place and condition!
 2. We will be taken to heaven during the Tribulation period
 3. We will have a resurrection body
- B. **our vile body**- Lit. Gr. *body of humiliation*
 1. Even the best and most youthful and beautiful bodies are bodies of humiliation!
 - a. All bodies have the nature of sin and death in them.
 - b. All bodies have parasites!

- b. All bodies excrete wastes
- c. All bodies are feeble and easily injured
- d. Under a microscope the defects of our body are quite obvious

C. May be conformed to- Gr. **sumorphos-** *morphe-* *to outwardly manifest an inward reality*. Our body will take on the genetics and likeness of our Christ who is in our spirit.

D. His glorious body- We will have a body that is just like Jesus but without the marks of His suffering which Jesus will carry throughout all eternity! What Jesus' body can do, ours will be able to do!

1. Jesus' body can go through walls- **John 20:19-** He came through the bolted door and stood in the midst of them.
2. Jesus' body can travel from earth to heaven and heaven to earth- **travel will be at the speed of thought.**
3. Jesus body can eat, and not get fat! - **Luke 24:42**
4. Jesus' body is incorruptible and is not subject to decay or death- **1 Cor. 15:53**
5. the body we have now will be resurrected and assimilated and swallowed up by our heavenly resurrection body- **1 Cor. 15:53-54, 2 Cor. 5:4**

E. according to the working- Gr. **energeia-** *energetic work*

F. by which He is able to subject all things to Himself

1. Jesus Christ can subject our body to Himself right now! **Romans 8:13** He just needs our cooperation and faith. He will not do this without our consent and faith.
2. Jesus Christ will subject all things to Himself by the working of His power. **1 Cor. 15:28**