

# Philippians

A GUIDE TO JOY

## Philippians 3:17-21 – Follow Godly Examples

July 26, 2020

### 1. Follow the example of godly people who love Christ.

#### A. Follow the example of Paul.

Brothers, join in imitating me,... Philippians 3:17 (ESV)

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect,... Philippians 3:12 (ESV)

This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them all. 1 Timothy 1:15 (NLT)

I urge you, then, be imitators of me. 1 Corinthians 4:16 (ESV)

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit,... 1 Thessalonians 1:6 (ESV)

#### B. Follow the example of others who are mature in Christ.

...keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. Philippians 3:17 (ESV)

**Pastors and elders are to be examples for the church to follow.**

*Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity,... Titus 2:7 (ESV)*

*Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12 (ESV)*

**Follow the example of spiritually mature living people.**

**Follow the example of spiritually mature dead people.**

## **2. Don't follow ungodly people who don't love Christ.**

**A. Don't follow obvious enemies of the cross.**

*For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Philippians 3:18 (ESV)*

### **Entertainment**

*We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,...  
2 Corinthians 10:5 (ESV)*

### **Non-Christian Friends**

*One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. Proverbs 12:26 (ESV)*

*Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."  
1 Corinthians 15:33 (ESV)*

**B. Don't follow subtle enemies of the cross.**

Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. Philippians 3:19 (ESV)

**How do recognize subtle enemies of the cross?**

**1. Their God is their stomach.**

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. Hebrews 13:4 (ESV)

**2. Their glory is their shame.**

**3. They set their mind on earthly things.**

For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. Matthew 16:27 (ESV)

**3. Instead of living for earthly life, live for our eternal life.**

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Philippians 3:20–21 (ESV)

**Our citizenship is in heaven**

For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come. Hebrews 13:14 (NLT)

*In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.*  
John 14:2-3 (ESV)

### **Jesus is coming back**

*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.* 2 Corinthians 5:10 (ESV)

### **Jesus will transform our bodies to be like His body by His awesome power.**

*...when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.*  
1 John 3:2 (ESV)

*...after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.* 1 Corinthians 15:24-26 (ESV)

## **Conclusion**

### **Life Group Questions**

---

1. What stuck out to you in the message? What is one thing you will apply?
2. How does the media in our culture try to lead us away from Jesus by giving us poor examples to follow? How should we combat that trend?
3. Are there people you need to cut out of your life because you are following the example of their life and they are leading you away from Jesus? How can you make that tough choice in a wise way?
4. Paul tells us we can recognize subtle enemies of the cross by their desire to live for immediate pleasure in life with no desire for self-denial to please Christ and be rewarded by Christ in the next life. Is that truth personally convicting? What is one choice you can make this week to live with more of an eternal instead of an earthly focus in your life?
5. Who are people you want to model your life after because you are impressed by the way they follow Jesus in their life? They can be living or dead?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-58. What do these verses teach us about eternal life and why we should long for it more than anything this world offers?