

# Philippians 3:17-19

## Following Paul's Example

Jeremy Doan

Holly Hills Bible Church

July 22, 2012

## Philippians 3:17-19

*17 Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. 18 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.*

## Questions to be answered

- What does it mean to follow someone, to be a disciple?
- Are we to imitate or emulate?
  - Who wants to be a clone?
- In what sense do we set an example for others to follow?
  - What role does this play in counseling?
- What does it mean to be an enemy of the cross?
  - Can a believer be an enemy of the cross?
- Is our mindset heavenly or earthly?
- What are some manifestations of earth-mindedness?

# Christian Clones

*Brethren, join in following my example,*

Greek (*symmimētēs*)

*fellow imitators; joint followers*

- Wuest: *Be together, jointly, imitators of me*
- 1 Corinthians 11:1 *Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.*
- What was the example that Paul had set?
- Are we parrot everything that Paul had done?
  - Anyone know where I can get some tent making material?
- How do we "follow together"?
  - Hebrews 10:23-25

## Mark, the godly man

*and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.*

### Greek (tupos)

*an example to be imitated; a prototype; a pattern*

- The word was used of a stamping dye
- Other words of note
  - Observe: *observe intently; to fix ones eyes upon*
  - Walk: Ephesians 1:4, Colossians 2:6, 1 Thessalonians 4:1
- How are we to look at the fellow saints?
  - What things are to we to look for in their lives?
- Most of the verbs of verse 17 involve a present, continuing action

## Imitating an example (1)

- Two key words in verse 17 are imitate and example

Scripture Passage	Imitate	Example
Romans 6:17		X
1 Corinthians 4:14-16		X
1 Corinthians 11:1	X	
Ephesians 5:1-2	X	
Philippians 3:17	X	X
1 Thessalonians 1:5-7	X	X
2 Thessalonians 3:7-9		X
1 Timothy 1:16		X
1 Timothy 4:12		X
Titus 2:7		X
Hebrews 13:7	X	
1 Peter 5:3		X
3 John 11	X	

## Imitating an example (2)

- 1 Thessalonians 1:5-7

*5 for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. 6 You also became **imitators** of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an **example** to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.*

- The ultimate goal is for us to observe the example of others beholding Christ, and walking in faith in Him
- We can then follow in the same pattern of living
  - We can accomplish this only through fellowship together
- This topic is covered in more detail in the Biblical Counseling course

## The crying game

*For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ,*

Greek (klaiō)

*to weep for, mourn for, bewail, one*

- This weeping is loud, audible mourning
- Paul's primary concern is that fellow believers walk in fellowship with Christ
- Paul was terribly distraught that there were those who walked contrary to the truth
- Walking contrary to the truth is not a slight matter



## The wrong side of the law

*For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ,*

### Greek (echthros)

*men at enmity with God by their sin; opposing (God) in the mind*

- Same word used in Romans 5:10
- These are believers
- These are not the Judaizers of the earlier part of the passage
- These are people who reject the moral law
  - They followed the Epicurian philosophy of the day
- They stand in opposition to the cross of Christ

# Eat, Drink, and Be Merry

- From Euripedes:

*My flocks which I sacrifice to no one but myself, and not to the gods, and to this my belly, the greatest of the gods: for to eat and drink each day, and to give one's self no trouble, this is the god of wise men.*

- There are two big dangers (amongst others) for the believer:
  - ① Live according to the law, hoping to gain some favor with God
  - ② Reject completely any moral law, and live hedonistically
- Both are fleshly walks
- Both are outside of God's plan for us as believers

## Amusing ourselves to death

*whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite,*

- What is this destruction?
  - Romans 6:23—*the wages of sin is death*
  - This is not eternal damnation
  - This destruction has nothing to do with position
  - Vern: *irreversible spiritual damage*
- They follow their appetite/belly
  - Hedonistic worldview—if it feels good
  - They are mastered by earthly, selfish concerns
  - Fleshly living may not always look like “fleshly living”

# Don't be an (oxy)moron

*and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.*

- Glory in shame
  - Perfectly describes the worldly, hedonistic system
  - Shame can be translated “disgrace”
  - What exactly is the “shame”?
  - What should cause a believer shame?
  - The opposite of Philippians 3:3
- Earthly minded
  - Directly contradicts verses 13-16
  - See Colossians 3:1-2, Hebrews 12:1-2
  - Literally: *earthly things thinking*

## Expanded and explained: Philippians 3:17-19

*17 Brethren in Christ—those having spiritual relationship with one another because of positional relationship with Him, you must of logical conclusion, based on your position in Christ, be followers together of the pattern of beholding Christ that I have shown you, and likewise pay close attention to those among you who are also beholding Christ so as to live in the context of life according to the template you have in us as we are likewise occupied with Christ. 18 I must make this critical distinction because there are many on this earth who live, of whom I often told you when I was with you, and now tell you even weeping out loud, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, standing opposed to or abusing His grace, and standing opposed to the sufficiency of His death on the cross.*

## Expanded and explained: Philippians 3:19

*19 These are the ones whose destination is spiritual destruction because they stand opposed to the cross of Christ, whose worship as to a god is directed to their appetite, being a slave to it, and whose highest expression of glory is no better than their shame, whose mindset is entirely focused upon and pivoting on earthly objects, events and processes.*