

EXAMPLE

PHILIPPIANS 3:17-4:1



OUTLINE & SUMMARY

Introduction

In this passage, the Apostle Paul calls the Philippians (and us) to follow him and other *good* examples of walking with God but to be on guard against a *bad* example set by false brothers.

Verse 17 • Paul calls them to use him and others of proven character as examples, models, patterns, of what a healthy walk with God is like.

Verses 18-19 • Paul warns them not to assume everyone who claims to be “walking” with Jesus, in truth, is. He calls them enemies of the cross of Christ; a telling phrase.

Verses 20-4:1 • The Philippians were ultra-proud of being a Roman colony and having Roman citizenship. Paul concludes this portion of the letter by reminding them of their higher and more important heavenly citizenship.

FOR THE GROUP

Introduction

Who has been a good example of the Christian life to you? What are the qualities of a good example? What caution do we need to install when setting examples of how to walk with God?

Note the first word of v. 17 “Brethren.” Why was that a remarkable way for a Jew (Paul) to address one-time pagan Gentile Philippians? What does it tell us about the power of the Gospel to alter earthly relationships? Why is this especially important in the church today?

Was it arrogant for Paul to call the Philippians to make him an example of how to walk with God?

Why or why not?

What does this reveal about genuine humility?

Why ought each of us endeavor to be an example? Can you confidently invite others to use you as an example of being a Jesus-Follower?

What does Paul’s use of examples in walking with God tell us about the priority and need of fellowship?

Read Hebrews 10:24-25 and discuss what it says in light of Phil 3:17.

What are these false brethren enemies of and why? What do they live for and why is the message of the cross a threat to that?

What impact does our spiritual citizenship have on our personal sense of identity; of who and what we are? What privileges are ours by virtue of being a citizen of heaven?