

Philippians 3:17- 4:3

Only Follow Godly Examples!

Background Information

- On Paul's 2nd missionary journey he founded the Philippian church in 52 AD.
- These events are recorded in Acts 16.
- Paul is writing this letter from prison in Rome, in the year 62 AD, about 10 years later
- Epaphroditus had just come from Philippi bearing a gift of money for Paul (Phil. 4:18).

Philippians 3:17- 4:3

^{NIV} **Philippians 3:17** Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.

¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.

¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.

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²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,
²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Philippians 4:1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

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² I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

³ Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Philippians 3:17- 4:3

I. **A command to pick godly examples to follow (3:17).**

¹⁷ Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.

A. This is a command – literally, “be imitators of me” (1 Cor. 4:16; 11:1; 2 Thes. 3:7-9).

B. There are other godly examples. “keep your eyes on those who live as we do.”

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Who is a godly example to follow?

1:9 – people whose love for God and others abounds yet more and more in knowledge and discernment.

1:10 – people who are pure and blameless in their life.

1:11 – people whose lives are filled with the fruit of righteousness = obedient living.

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Who is a godly example to follow?

1:20 – people whose goal is for Christ to be magnified (exalted) in their body, by the way they live.

1:21 – people who would rather die than disobey or disappoint Christ. “for me to live is Christ”

1:27 – people who stand firm in one spirit and one mind – striving together for the faith of the gospel - not self-willed; contentious; able to harmoniously get along with other Christians.

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Who is a godly example to follow?

1:28 – people who are not intimidated or terrified by worldly opposition.

1:29 – people who are not afraid to suffer for Jesus because of their obedience to Scripture.

2:2 – people who are of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit in full obedience to Christ.

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Who is a godly example to follow?

2:3-4 – people who are not motivated by selfish ambition or conceit, but regard others better (more important) than themselves.

2:5-11 – people who adopt Christ's mind-set in serving others.

2:14 – people who live their lives without complaining (grumbling) or arguing.

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Who is a godly example to follow?

2:15 – people who are blameless and pure, children of God without blemish though living in a crooked and perverse society.

2:16 – people who hold fast to God's Word no matter what happens.

3:16 – people who continually walk in the light God has given them -- “lets live up to what we have already attained.”

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- I. **A command to pick godly examples to follow (3:17).**
- II. **An exhortation not to live as people of this world live (3:18-19)**

¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.

¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.

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II. An exhortation not to live as people of this world live (3:18-19).

A. To live like the world is to be an enemy of the cross.

¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.

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II. An exhortation not to live as people of this world live (3:18-19).

B. Characteristics of the people of this world.

¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.

1. They face spiritual destruction.

2. Their god is their “appetite” – a symbol of what we feed on.

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II. An exhortation not to live as people of this world live (3:18-19).

B. Characteristics of the people of this world.

¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.

3. They thoroughly enjoy their sinful lifestyle.

4. Their values and goals are earthly.

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- I. A command to pick godly examples to follow (3:17).
- II. An exhortation not to live as people of this world live (3:18-19).
- III. As citizens of heaven we have a future hope (3:20-21).

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Philippians 3:17- 4:3

- I. A command to pick godly examples to follow (3:17).**
- II. An exhortation not to live as people of this world live (3:18-19)**
- III. As citizens of heaven we have a future hope (3:20-21).**
 - A. Our citizenship is in heaven.**
 - B. When Jesus returns he will transform our bodies to be like his glorious resurrected body.**

Philippians 3:17- 4:3

- I. **A command to pick godly examples to follow (3:17).**
- II. **An exhortation not to live as people of this world live (3:18-19)**
- III. **As citizens of heaven we have a future hope (3:20-21).**
- IV. **The importance of being of one mind in the Lord (4:1-3).**

“Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!”

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IV. The importance of being of one mind in the Lord (4:1-3).

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