

Enemies of the Cross of Christ

Philippians 3:17-19

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Introduction

What comes to your mind when you hear the phrase, “enemies of the cross of Christ?”

Paul, the persecutor of the church? (Acts 8:3; 9:4-5; 22:4-5; 26:9-11; Phil. 3:6)

Atheists?

Hostile governments who try to shut down the church and persecute Christians?

All these, to be sure, are enemies of God and of the cross of Christ. But what would you say if I told you that a person can claim to be a follower of Christ and by the way they live, live as enemies of the cross of Christ?

That’s what we have before us in our text this morning.

Follow Godly Examples.

¹⁷Brethren, (1:12, 14; 3:1, 13; 4:1, 8)

2 Commands:

A. **Join in following my example**, (“be united in imitating me” O’Brien; Silva)

1 Corinthians 4:6; 1 Corinthians 11:1

Philippians 2:5-8

Philippians 3:7-14

B. **Observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.**

Gr. - “skopos”; English “scope” – telescope, microscope

“pay careful attention,” “look at.” “watch intently”

Romans 16:17

“Walk” – lifestyle, pattern of behavior

Pattern – “that which is formed by a blow or impression” as from a die.

Us – Paul, Timothy (2:19-24), Epaphroditus (2:25-30) Leaders of the church in Philippi (1:1) [1Thess. 1:6; 2:14; 1Pet. 5:3]

Reason for finding and following Godly Examples

¹⁸**For** many walk,

of whom I often told you, (3:1)

and now tell you even weeping,

Acts 20:19, 31; Romans 9:1-5

Who does Paul have in mind?

Judaizers (3:2-3)? Libertines?

that they are enemies of the cross of Christ,

“walk as enemies”

Romans 11:28

James 4:4

Whoever they are they are “many.”

Their destiny.

¹⁹**whose end is destruction,**

Phil. 1:27-28

2 Thess. 1:5-10

Matt. 7:13-14

Their Character.

whose god is *their* appetite, (lit. belly, stomach)

Romans 16:18

They live for their fleshly desires

and *whose* glory is in their shame,

The thing they boast in or take pride in is conduct that should be considered as shameful. Shame can also refer to that which leads to their shame. "The fate of those who are rejected at the last judgment."

Isaiah 45:24-25

who set their minds on earthly things.

"their whole orientation is earthly."

Mind/thinking – 1:7; 2:2, 5; 3:15; 4:2

Peter in Matthew 16:23

Romans 8:5-8

Earthly – as opposed to heavenly (see vv. 20-21)

Colossians 3:1-2

James 3:13-17 (v. 15)

Application

Does my life reflect the centrality and power of the cross?

Does my life reflect an earthly mindset that is at odds with all that the cross represents in salvation and in godly living?