

# Examples – Good and Bad

Sermon 16 in the Philippians Series

## Philippians 3:17-4:1

### I. Imitate Me v. 17

Literally – “imitators together of me be, brethren” – most be smoothed out in English

If you have to be absolutely perfect to be a good example – then no good examples are possible (3:12). Only the Lord Jesus Christ was perfect.

### II. False Doctrine and False Teachers. 3:18-19

He had already warned them against those who preached the true gospel with less than pure motives in chapter 1.

**3:2** – This is a warning against the Judaizing heretics.

Christians are the true spiritual circumcision

1. Who worship God
2. Glory in Christ
3. Put no confidence in the flesh.

We do not know exactly who these false teachers are in v. 18-19.

This helps the church in every age to fight against all heresies not one specific heresy.

**3:18-19** -- These non-believers

1. They are enemies.  
They are opposed to the things of God, are vocal about their opposition.
2. Their God is their Belly (koilia – can mean appetites, physical desires)  
**Romans 16:18** – For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own **belly**, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.
3. Whose glory is their shame  
Paul is echoing **Hosea 4:7** – “I will change their glory into shame”.
4. Their end is Destruction

### III. Our Citizenship 3:18-4:1

If this sounds familiar, it should. Especially in the choice of Greek words.

Compare Philippians. 1:27-28

<sup>27</sup> Only **let your conduct** be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you **stand fast** in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup> and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of **perdition**, but to you of **salvation**, and that from God.

1. Destruction 3:19 (perdition in 1:28 is the same word as 3:19 = *apoleia*)  
Destruction – not annihilation.

**1:28** – Weymouth’s paraphrase “Your fearlessness will be to them a sure token of impending destruction, but to you (*your fearlessness*) will be a sure token of your salvation – a salvation coming from God.”

2. Citizenship 3:20 (Let your conduct – 1:27)  
The form of the Greek word used in 3:20 for “citizenship” is used in 1:27 for “**Let your conduct**” which could be translated “behave like citizens”.

Citizens of Heaven – not citizens of Philippi – which would have included emperor worship.

3. The Savior 3:20 (salvation – 1:28)  
The Lord Jesus Christ is our Savior.  
The Roman Emperors considered themselves to be “Saviors” of Rome’s citizens.

4. Stand Firm 4:1 (Stand fast – 1:27 = *steko*)

Remember -- Our bodies will be changed.  
Transformed to be like Christ’s glorious body!