

Follow the Leader
Phil 3:17-19
December 30, 2018

The Christian life is difficult.

Paul gives guidance and support as the Christian strives for perfection.

Follow My Example

How can Paul ask this? (1 Cor 4:16; Phil 4:9; 1 Cor 11:1; Eph 5:1)

We follow Paul as he follows Christ.

Paul is not perfect, but still worthy of imitation.

Imitate not only Paul, but others who have taught you the truth.

Follow not only them, but also those who live by the same pattern.

Walk together; join together in walking in my wake.

Why the urgency to follow the best examples?

Because there are many bad examples out there.

Why does Paul consistently warn against bad examples, with tears?

Who are these enemies of the cross of Christ?

Perfectionists

Libertines

Judaizers

The gospel is tarnished from many different directions.

We need the gospel, over and over again.

Pure, free grace for pardoned but persistent sinners.

Three marks of the enemies of the cross

God is their appetite.

They glory in their shame.

They set their minds on earthly things.