

Being an Example

Philippians 3:12 – 4:1

Welcome back and here we go! Today we finish *chapter 3* and start *chapter 4*. Praise God for His faithfulness to us as He has equipped us with the ability to be good examples. Why is this important? Because I think all of us are still figuring it out as we go! As crazy as that sounds, it is true. Every day brings an opportunity to do it right or do it wrong. Through edification we learn the right way to avoid the wrong things!

Philippians 3:12 – 4:1

- 1) What stands out to you?

Last week we talked about forgetting those things behind. Today it is pressing forward to those things ahead. Paul says in *verse 15*, “...let us, as many as are mature, have this mind...”

What “mind”? Well, obviously the mind of Christ.

Philippians 3:17-20

- 2) Who were/are the great Christian examples in your life?

These people leave a mark on our life and make us better because we knew/know them. In Timothy, Titus, and 1st Peter, it is all about the elder being an example to the younger, that we might adorn the Gospel! Paul says, a) join us, b) pay attention to those who have followed us, and c) we are your pattern! A pattern is something that we have established as a habit but also as a roadmap. We see the beginning of this truth in...

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Establishing a pattern early on...

- 3) Who are you an example to today (good or bad)?

Funny enough we can also be bad examples.

Philippians 3:18-19

This seems harsh, but we know it is true. People that are bad examples are actually enemies of the cross, believers included. It is a hard reality, but earthly pleasures and possessions and thinking are rampant in society. We all set our minds on earthly things. We live on the earth. But are we content with what God has given us? In two weeks we will talk about true contentment in Christ.

4) What does it mean to “*set your mind on earthly things*”?

The idea that our *god is our belly* simply means all the things we get to satisfy our hunger/appetite for worldly things and, before we throw rocks, let’s look at our lives. What are the things most important to you? Where you spend your time and where you spend your money reveals that.

There is nothing wrong with having things. God gave them to you. There is something wrong if that is the example you lead by. What did Paul write to Timothy?

1 Timothy 4:12-16

Be an example in conduct, love, spirit, faith, purity.

5) Where do you excel? Where could you do better?

I think we all have skewed views of ourselves, either good or bad. Often they are bad --- negative self-talk and thoughts. By the way, this is a BAD example!

Philippians 3:20

Our example should be --- eagerly waiting (confidently expecting) God to show up in our daily lives.

In ***Philippians 4:9*** Paul gives us a promise. This is the goal, that by our lives we can tell those around us, *watch me, mimic me and find peace*, meaning I have established a good pattern for you to watch.

6) Are you comfortable telling people to follow your pattern? Why / why not?

I say it often. I am your pattern. I study diligently, I serve daily, I give freely, I try to exhibit all of the Christian principles that I teach. But, most importantly, I try to remain gracious. I teach grace. I try to live grace and lastly, I admit my mistakes --- often!

Finally, the encouragement:

Philippians 4:1 Stand Fast.

Next week, we talk anxiety! *Philippians 4:1-9*