



EQUIPPED FOR
DESTINY CHURCH

A Study of Philippians

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CLASS 5 - UNDERSTANDING OUR KINGDOM CITIZENSHIP

Scripture:

Philippians 3:17-21

Leverage the Patterns

Philippians 3:17 “17 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.”

- Amp “17 Brothers and sisters, together follow my example and observe those who live by the pattern we gave you.”
- Principle: Our living in Christ influences others either to the positive or the negative
- It is not God’s intent for us to stagger through life and figure out everything on our own - that’s PRIDE
- God has given us others to whom we may pattern after in terms of living out the Christian lifestyle. They’re not our GOAL but they are a PATTERN for us to follow
 - vs 14 “I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” - follow this pattern
- Further Reading: Titus 2
- Principle: You cannot grow any FARTHER than you are FATHERED
- 1 Corinthians 4:14-16 “ I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. 15 For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. 16 Therefore I urge you, imitate me”
 - Note: “fathering in the kingdom is not about age but about positioning”

- Ex: 1 Cor 4:17 “ 17 For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.” [Timothy was a very young minister and pastor]
- Q. Who’s example are you following? Who’s following your example? What pattern of teaching are you getting?

Reject the Enemies of the Cross

Philippians 3:18-19 “For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.”

- **“For many walk”** - “walk” or “steps” mostly reflects our living and way of life. Paul writes to the “Church of Philippi” which then would make this a Christian audience to whom he is writing
 - “For many walk” - speaks towards other would be Christians, not outsiders
 - These are people who THINK they’re in Christ.. but Pauls says who are actually enemies of the cross of Christ
- Paul is talking about what he has said previously” Philippians 3:12-16
 - Commitment and single focused lifestyle towards reaching the goal that is CHRISTLIKENESS
 - While they profess Christ their teaching/living/example/pattern is actually a detriment for others to follow - it’s antithetical to the citizenship of the kingdom
- Evidence:
 - **“ whose end is destruction”** - Luke 14:27 “And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple” [it is NOT enough just to join Christ but we must also join His cross]
 - **“whose god is their belly, [their worldly appetite, their sensuality, their vanity] and whose glory is in their shame”** - these are people who name Christ but with no conviction - life without guardrails” [Further Reading: 2 Timothy 3:1-9]
 - “who set their mind on earthly things.” - Principle: You cannot take worldly/earthly principles/values and apply them within the kingdom context - it doesn’t work - we have to take KINGDOM principles/values and apply those within this worldly context
 - The church is not called to teach people how to live a better earthly existence, but we’re called to teach people how to live a better spiritual existence - which will surely manifest into a better earthly existence!

Keep Kingdom Focus

Philippians 3:20-21 “ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”

- “For our citizenship is in heaven” - we belong to a different KINGDOM and different authority, live by different values and rules - Earth is NOT our home but is the place we occupy until it’s time to return HOME!
- You are not a Earthly being living a spiritual existence; but you’re a spiritual being living an Earthly experience
- Transform and conform in two contexts:
 - The finality of Christ’s return: 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53
 - The process until then: Romans 12:1-2 “ I beseech[a] you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your [b]reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”
- This is OUR complete focus - being transformed and renewed in our minds and being conformed to the image of God’s Son

Destiny Points:

- God has given us patterns to follow in people who live lives worth watching and imitating - God is expecting us to live as examples worthy of being followed
- Use your spiritual discernment to recognize enemies of the cross - those who have a FORM of godliness who’s lives are devoid of the power of God
- Keep God’s kingdom your focus.. surrender to God’s Transformation and Confirmation