

**Digging Deeper (for further study):**

6. How do you see the importance of “imitating” the examples of others (and most importantly, the example of Christ) show up in other places throughout the letter to the Philippians and elsewhere in Scripture?

Is it arrogant for Paul to say “be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1)? Why or why not?

In what ways can we be aspiring to set Christ-like examples for others just as Paul did? Why is this important?

7. Paul roots our eternal confidence in “the exertion of the power” of Christ “to subject all things to Himself” (v. 21). What does this communicate to you about the nature of the Lord Jesus Christ?

On a personal level, what does this tell you about the power of Christ and the gospel to transform your own life?

**Imitation and Transformation**

**Philippians 3:17-21**

*April 12, 2015*

1. The Pattern of Imitation (v. 17)

✧ Following requires action...

✧ Only one pattern to follow...

2. An Example To Be Avoided (v. 18-19)

✧ Recognizing an opposite...

✧ Marks of a poor example...

### 3. An Example To Be Embraced (v. 20-21)

✧ The importance of citizenship...

✧ The implications of citizenship...

### **Message-Based Discussion Questions**

1. As you reflect on the message, what was one observation, application, or insight that stood out to you?

2. Read Philippians 3:17-21, the text from this week's message, and look at Paul's initial statement. What are your reactions to his desire for believers to follow his own example?

Why is it so important for us to have other examples to look up to as followers of Jesus Christ?

3. What is Paul's reaction to those who are enemies of the cross of Christ (v. 18-19)? (Consider both his emotion and his instruction.)

How does his reaction help us to make sense of how we ought to approach the lost world that surrounds us?

### **Practicing It Together:**

4. The final world is not centered on the lost world around us, but rather on the eternal hope that we have as followers of Jesus Christ. How does Paul's summary of that hope in verses 20-21 encourage and challenge you?

What are some specific areas of your life where you would like to see this eternal perspective shape your actions? What are you going to do to put this into practice?

5. Spend time praying together over these points: that we would seek godly examples to imitate (and be godly examples to others), that we would have wisdom to recognize enemies of the cross of Christ, and that we would keep our own thoughts and actions centered upon our heavenly citizenship.