

# Philippians: Gospel Partnership

## Practical Partnership

The Gospel ⇒ GOD, MAN, CHRIST, RESPONSE

the shape of the gospel  
↓  
proclamation followed by application

Philippians 3:15-17 ESV [15] Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. [16] Only let us hold true to what we have attained. [17] Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

By way of intro

Before we look at Paul's practical applications, let's consider how we got here!

Review:

**What does gospel partnership look like?**

A problem w/ some preaching is an over emphasis on application and an underemphasis on proclamation

**Gospel partnership looks like the gospel.**

**They have as their ultimate example the Lord Jesus Christ who demonstrated a life of obedience, sacrifice, and service particularly in his death on the cross.** Philippians 2:5-8 ESV [5] Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, [6] who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, [7] but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. [8] And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

**Gospel partnership involves biblical joy as they live in this world with eyes on the next.** Philippians 2:14-18 ESV [14] Do all things without grumbling or disputing, [15] that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, [16] holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. [17] Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. [18] Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

**It involves living this life in the resurrection power of the Spirit, particularly in the midst of their own suffering.** Philippians 3:8-11 ESV [8] Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ [9] and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—[10] that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, [11] that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

**Gospel partnership is a relentless pursuit of pressing on to know Christ Jesus until he is fully known.**

**Paul says about this gospel partnership and what it should like:**

**Philippians 3:15-17 ESV** [15] Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. [16] Only let us hold true to what we have attained. [17] Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

Think: "Let those of us who are mature think this way"

- **Philippians 2:5 ESV** [5] Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,
- Mature
  - not complete eschatologically, but mature/complete in terms of how they live their lives
  - Maturity = sharing Paul's viewpoint
  - Paul is concerned that they set their minds like his which is characteristic of the mature
- *"The logical response to Paul's example of single-minded pursuit of Christ is to follow in his footsteps."*
- Think = Mindset
  - *"a basic frame of mind, a way of looking at everything, which in turn leads to a way of behaving"*
  - Mindset = an adopted mindset, a frame of reference through which everything else is evaluated, think, judge, form an opinion, not just intellectual but also affections and will
- How does one form a mindset?
  - **John Hay and David Webb are writing the Biblical Worldview Series:** "People develop their worldviews upon beliefs they perceive to be true." "How do we know what is true?" and "How must we live our lives in relation to the truth that we come to know?"

*To have a Christ-like mindset*

- Must know what is true according to Jesus – which is what is really true
- Must know how Jesus wants us to live – which is how we really should live
- Read the Bible! → *life-long pursuit (George Mueller)*

*Not every one will be eye-to-eye*

- Think otherwise – "and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you."
  - Within the setting of friendships, a friendship of mutuality, Paul assumes all will not see eye to eye, mutual friendship and mutual trust allows Paul to leave it in God's hands
  - The disagreements are general in nature...but this something different cannot be the cruciform life or the pursuit of the prize – Paul makes clear later that there are some beliefs which are absolutely necessary for gospel partnership
  - How can we respond like Paul? (Friendship and trust.) → *this takes time*

*In the context of friendship+trust, Paul is confident to those who differ?*

- Reveal – God's work in the lives of believers to give them a greater understanding and application of the truth of the gospel

*\* let us adopt the mindset of Christ*

Hold: "Only let us hold true to what we have attained."

- Live up to what God has already revealed...No need for divine revelation in terms of what they have attained → *looking for something fresh*
- Already = live in keeping with how they have already followed, nothing new...he's not burdened to write the same things
- What have they attained:
  - **looks like the gospel**
  - **They have as their ultimate example the Lord Jesus Christ who demonstrated a life of obedience, sacrifice, and service particularly in his death on the cross.**
  - **Gospel partnership involves biblical joy as they live in this world with eyes on the next.**

- **It involves living this life in the resurrection power of the Spirit, particularly in the midst of their own suffering.**
- **Gospel partnership is a relentless pursuit of pressing on to know Christ Jesus until he is fully known.**
- Hold true = fall in line (military), bring into conformity to, be in line with a standard of conduct
  - Line dancing
  - This is a reminder of the corporate nature of these applications
  - Some see maturity coming in isolation...nope! Resist every inclination to "do it alone"

—————▶ Arabic Fellowship

Imitate: "Brothers, join in imitating me"

- Imitate him - This had a precedent in Paul's Jewish heritage
- The one who imitates internalizes and lives out the model presented by the teacher
- Mentoring/Apprenticeship
  - Me at WLA
- Two earlier imitates directly indicate suffering for Christ, the second also includes rejoicing
  - From review: looks like the gospel
  - a life of obedience, sacrifice, and service
  - biblical joy as they live in this world with eyes on the next.
  - living this life in the resurrection power of the Spirit, particularly in the midst of their own suffering
  - a relentless pursuit of pressing on to know Christ Jesus
- To call for one to imitate yourself is hard! But...
  - Men at Men's Retreat
  - Where is grace evident in your life in such a way that you could tell someone to follow you? Ask God to show you.

\* let's imitate those who demonstrate their partnership in the gospel \*

Watch: "keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us"

- Have a discerning eye for all who walk according to the pattern
  - You're looking for fellow-imitators
  - Intentionality – often we are drawn to those who aren't ideal – *highschool*
- "exerting effort in continually acquiring information regarding some matter, with the implication of concern as to how to respond appropriately"
- Suggestion of more than just the Philippians thus they must be on the lookout for such people
  - When those from the outside come in, Mark those who walk the way of the cross and walk as they have
  - Warning – be careful – Non-trinitarians
- The supreme example is always Christ
- This is "a summons to be intentional about observing the lives of those who are spiritually mature and seeking to learn from their pattern of life."
  - How?
    - Three things:
      1. Apprenticeship
      2. Life group
      3. PALS
  - We are going to facilitate these things, but you must be willing to participate (pay the price)

*Think as gospel partners should  
 Hold to what we have attained - keep in step, together  
 Imitate those partners in whom the gospel is evident  
 Keep our eyes on those who live like Paul, Timothy,  
 Epaphroditus, and ultimately Christ!*