

Lent 2021 - Reflections on Christian Priorities

**Study 6: Examples that changed our lives.
Stand Firm.
(Sermon - 21 March 2021)**

Philippians 3:15 - 4:3.

What might mature Christians do to help these women (v3)?

What should be your response to disagreements within your church or fellowship group?

What have you learned from Paul and others both positive and negative about living as Christians?

In study 3, I asked you about the people whose examples have influenced you. The study ultimately, however, focused on the example of Jesus and his influence in our lives.

Yet Paul is not backward in highlighting other examples who affect the Christian's life; indeed he is willing to put himself forward as an example. Today we are going to consider those Christians who have had a profound influence on us.

But as we consider who has influenced us, we need to reflect on the fact that our lives are also examples to others. Once people know we are Christians they will draw conclusions about Christ from our lives. So are our lives a good example? So do we stand firm in Christ?

Phil. 4:1 'Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way.'

Who is someone you have looked to as an example in the Christian life? In what ways has their example changed your life?

Now read Philippians 3:15 - 4:3

Why is Paul so confident about his views on life and death and thus living our lives in the light of this (vv15 – 16)?

Why are we encouraged to think similarly to Paul?

In verses 17 – 21 Paul contrasts the “game plan” of Christians with ‘enemies of the cross.’ What are the differences in goals and destinies?

In v17 Paul is like a coach calling his team to follow his example. Summarize the tips the coach has given us in this passage.

How can you follow his example?

In 4:1 how does Paul describe how he feels about the Philippians?

How do we stand firm in the Lord?

In v2 Paul pleads with Euodia and Syntyche “to agree with each other in the Lord.” What effect do you think their broken relationship was having on the rest of the church?