

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## *Full-Spectrum Discipleship #7*

Watch the video summary of the **April 12, 2015 Sermon** (3.5 minutes), "The Demonstration of Discipleship." Please read the sermon passage (Philippians 3:17-21) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline:

1. **How to choose an example to follow** (17-19)
  - A. Choose a proven example whose character looks like Christ:
    - i. Paul has stopped to trying to please God in his own strength (3:4-8)
    - ii. Paul has made his life about knowing Christ (3:10)
    - iii. Paul is showing us how to live in the power of the resurrection (knowing that heaven is forever and life in this body is temporary) (3:10)
    - iv. Paul has been willing to suffer for the sake of the gospel (3:10)
    - v. Paul is willing to say: "As much as my character looks like Christ, follow me."
  - B. Note that Paul appeals to many people who are good human examples to follow. (3:17)
  - C. Note that he calls every Christian to have a faithful example to imitate. (3:17)
  - D. Christ is our ultimate Lord and example.
2. **Lifetime motivation to follow** (20-21)
  - A. Follow because you are a citizen of the colony of heaven. Believers live by heaven's values, morals, ethics and perspective.
  - B. Follow though you wait. We await a Savior from heaven while those around us try to hold on to life in this world and live for it now.
  - C. Follow because the Christ will transform this weak and frail body into a perfect and eternal body.
  - D. Follow as an example of what it looks like for this world to be in subjection to Jesus now.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: We can still learn from Paul today. We can learn how to minister to others when we are isolated (Phil 1:3-4, pray for them), how to trust that God is at work even when our circumstances don't seem to prove it (1:6), how to live in absolute harmony in the church (2:1-4) and how to "do all things without grumbling or questioning" (2:14), for instance. What have you learned from Paul about how to display the character of Jesus Christ in your life?
2. Who have you patterned your life after? How have you distinguished between "following them AS THEY FOLLOW CHRIST" versus simply copying everything about their lives?
3. Based on #1, above: Paul has the guts to ask people to follow him as he follows Jesus (see also 1 Corinthians 4:16, 11:1, 1 Timothy 4:12). Whether we tell people to "follow us as we follow Christ" or not, they will. They will see what Christ-following looks like from Christ followers. Are you ready to put your Christ-following pattern out there as an example to follow? Why or why not?
4. Based on #2, above: How does the fact that your citizenship is in heaven, and the fact that we should live "awaiting a Savior" motivate you live out a Christlike character worth imitating?
5. How is your example even more important in today's world biblical illiteracy? How is it more important in a world where it seems that even Christians justify immoral choices? How do we make certain that we are living these lives for the glory of God and not for our own pride?