

WHAT GOD WANTS TO BE TRUE OF YOU IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

(Philippians 3:15-16)

I. PAUL WARNED THE PHILIPPIANS OF DOCTRINAL ERROR (3:1-6)

II. PAUL COUNTED ALL THINGS AS LOSS FOR CHRIST HIS SAVIOR (3:7-9)

III. PAUL'S BURNING DESIRE TO KNOW CHRIST (3:10-12)

IV. PAUL'S SINGLE MINDEDNESS OF PRESSING TOWARDS THE GOAL (3:13-14)

V. PAUL'S APPEAL FOR UNITY IN THE CHURCH (3:15-16)

A. We are to have the SAME MIND (3:15)

1. It is plausible that someone in the church was teaching sinless perfection; which would give us the reason for Paul's repeated emphasis in verses 12-14 that he had not yet _____ or _____ perfection.

2. The conjunction " _____ " connects this section to the previous paragraph; the apostle was saying, "In light of the truth I just set forth about myself, here's how to _____ it." (3:15a)

3. The apostle included himself in the appeal, "*let us as many as are mature,*" which demonstrated that despite his position, he _____ to _____ this truth as well. (3:15b)

4. Paul called those who were spiritually mature in the church to be _____ the _____ way, "*to have this mind.*" (3:15c)
 - a. The maturity spoken of here is _____ one of completeness where there is no room for _____ or _____.

 - b. The mature believers in Philippi were to consider that even though they were spiritually farther along than some, there was still _____ of _____ for growth.

* Is there a distinct difference between spirituality and spiritual growth?

* Is it possible for us Christians to be deceived as to how far along we think we are spiritually speaking?

* How does a believer live the Christian life and spiritually grow?

5. Paul addressed those who may have _____ to what he was teaching about flawless perfection. (3:15d)

6. Because there was a strong trust factor built between the apostle and his spiritual children, he was able to _____ in the Lord's hands and trust that they would eventually _____. (3:15e)

B. We are to have the SAME WALK (3:16)

1. To the measure that these believers had already reached on their Christian _____ to _____, they were to continue on prosperously. (3:16a)

2. It was Paul's desire that the Philippians would "*be of the _____*," and the same exact phrase is found in the apostle's original plea for _____ back in 2:2 "*fulfill my joy by being like-minded.*" (3:16b)

* Shouldn't we do everything in our power to prevent disunity from cultivating in our local church?