

## Paul the Pattern

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Through his epistles, the Apostle Paul offers himself to us as a pattern of life and faith. However, some religious groups go too far, ascribing their own personal vision and image and pattern of the Apostle nowhere found in the Bible. Their version of Paul is an invention of things the Apostle did not say, teach, or do. This short study uncovers the truth about Paul and the pattern he shows us through his life and ministry, and exposes the ministries that take liberties in defining Paul.

### Religion is the Reason

Covenant / Reformed Christianity reads the Bible “allegorically”, meaning they do not believe the words of the Bible as written, and do not believe the Bible can be understood, and they say as much - “no one can understand the Bible”. To be fair, they are half right: no one can understand the Word of God **without the Spirit of God**. They do not have the Spirit of God, so, they do not understand the Bible. They believe their inability to understand Scripture is a universal truth and that everyone else wallows in spiritual darkness with them. They are wrong. **With the Spirit of God**, you can understand the Bible. In fact, the Spirit of God is the prerequisite for understanding God’s Word. The Spirit of God is the author of the Bible. The Spirit of God indwelling man is the difference between the Pauline Body of Christ that is the relationship with God, and all the false, ineffectual fortune cookie religions of the world with all their nice thoughts and nice words that cannot save. This includes Judaism and Christianity,

**Fun Fact:** Religion of every type is the single greatest satanic deception ever perpetrated upon the world, from idolatry, Confucianism, Pentecostalism, Catholicism, Islam, Evangelicalism, the various shades of Protestantism, and the rest.

The Body of Christ is not a religion, it is a relationship with God, and the indwelling Spirit of God.

### A False Foundation

Covenant Christianity interprets what the Bible says symbolically; metaphorically, figuratively; spiritualized, and mysticized - anything and everything but excepting the simple truth clearly written by God.

When religion looks at Jesus, for instance, various denominations invent a figure they call Jesus, but it is an allegorical interpretation and not one based on the Bible, or it is a Jesus of convenience, or a Jesus they prefer to the real one; a Jesus they can define and control and follow and worship. But always a false Jesus set up as a false god to distract the attention of the people from the one true God Almighty. With their false Jesus, there is always a false gospel.

**Fun Fact:** The religion called Christianity is found nowhere in the Bible. Both the Roman and Protestant derivatives are made-up religions. They are man-made, manufactured with out-of-context Bible verses and /or traditions, superstitions, imaginations, fables, extra-biblical writings, and errant practices, all lacking biblical support. This includes the religions of Catholicism, Lutheranism, Pentecostalism, Evangelicalism, Charismaticism, and many more under the umbrella of Protestantism. Men also created Mormonism and other religions in the same manner.

## The False Jesus

Nevertheless, Church leaders encourage their congregations to “follow Jesus”, be like Jesus, be changed by Jesus, have the heart of Jesus, be the heart of Jesus, give the heart of Jesus, be the love of Jesus, have the love of Jesus, take up the mission of Jesus, make disciples for Jesus, be a disciple for Jesus, conform to Jesus, and other such euphemisms. There is nothing real, or biblical, in this made-up fantasy Jesus-ism. It is a satanic lie promoting a false god specifically designed to distract people from the one true God who created us. The goddess Mary, found in some of these Christian derivatives, accomplishes the same end: a false goddess to turn people away from the one true God. Others have a false spirit that they claim makes them babble and act nutsy.

**Fun Fact:** Satan doesn't care who, what, or where you worship, so long as you do not find the One True Almighty God who created us for a relationship with Him. Satan doesn't want that and he is all about giving you other options.

## The Artificial Paul

Not surprisingly, the Christian religion also takes liberty with the Apostle Paul in much the same way: making an artificial Paul not found in the Bible, or, more often, ignoring him altogether. Once again, Satan is behind this deception as he wants you to focus on anything but the message God sent into the world through the Apostle. Satan would much rather you be consumed with obsolete Jewish Bible literature that won't do anything for you. That is Christianity.

Some Christian religious variants, the Berean Church and the Grace Church movement as examples, believe their congregations should fully follow the Apostle Paul's example in life and ministry. However, they define their “Paul” out of context, inventing a non-biblical Paul and pattern, usually combining several verses to create a false theme to support their flawed line of reasoning. This is unfortunate and unnecessary as the Bible clearly defines the believer's life, and Paul himself provides ample guidance, including his own example for us to emulate.

The reason for their false Paul is the underlying agenda of these false religions. They have an imaginary concept of missions and evangelism that does not exist in the Bible. So, they need a mascot, an example to follow, and no such thing exists in the Bible. So, they make one up. They call theirs “Paul”. They use their phony Paul as a sales pitch to their followers, giving them a false pattern to follow, coercing them in their misguided missionary zeal to do their bidding.

## Paul's Example

Listed below are sample verses and passages from the Bible on how the Apostle Paul leads the Gentile Body of Christ by example.

**Paul, throughout his epistles, often encourages his audience to rejoice, giving examples of his sufferings, yet rejoicing all the more. Paul doesn't say “follow me”, but it is Paul who rejoices and he tells his audience to rejoice, so, it is Paul's life, and therefore his pattern and example to us.**

**Philippians 3:1 ¶ Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed [is] not grievous, but for you [it is] safe.**

Paul dealt with errant religions in his day just as we do in our time. In his writing, he shares his life and experience, warning us to watch out for false religions preaching a different Spirit, a different Jesus, and a different gospel. (You could add: a different Paul) This is a pattern for us and a life example from the Apostle.

Philippians 3:2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision. (see also Colossians 2:8, 18)

II Corinthians 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

Galatians\_1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

Paul had a past (Philippians 3:3-12) from which God saved him, and called him into service. This is his example to the world: to forget your past. Regardless of what you were, where you are, what you've done, where you came from, and where you've been - it is all irrelevant. God doesn't care what you were. He is only interested in what you can be. God made you and He can fix you. Wherever you are right now, you can turn to God this minute and become a new spiritual creation in Christ. (I've timed it: 2 secs flat.) *"God, Help me, a sinner"*. The future with God is available to you, just choose. This is Paul, the pattern, and our example.

### Philippians 3

13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but [this] one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Continuing in this theme, Saul the godless, changed to Paul the missionary, was called by Christ and saved by God's grace to the ministry of the Gentiles. God makes an example of Paul for our sake, showing us His mercy and long suffering. Paul harshly persecuted the Jewish Christian church, chasing, beating, imprisoning, murdering those Jews who believed Jesus was the Messiah, the Jews the Romans called Christians. Yet, God, without Saul asking for mercy, or confessing sins, or offering repentance, saved him out of the darkness into the light of the truth for His service and for His namesake. What Paul could not do, God did. Paul says that he is an example and pattern of God's Grace: that no one is beyond saving, and all can call upon God's mercy regardless of who or what they are, or their past. This is Paul, the pattern, and our example.

### I Timothy 1:

12 ¶ And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but obtained mercy, because I did [it] ignorantly in unbelief. !

14 And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

15 This [is] a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all long suffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

“Perfect” as used by Paul, is the desire to follow God in clarity of heart and mind, unblameable in thought, word, and deed; heart, body, mind and soul. It is an attitude and desire to seek God and conform to His ways in the Spirit: to “press toward the mark for the prize”. This was Paul’s life that the scriptures detail: pattern / example.

Philippians 3:

15 ¶ Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

We have grown spiritually and attained to a level where we are now: continue, and follow those who have attained the same: Paul: pattern / example.

Philippians 3:

16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

Paul gives the example of himself, and a command, also, of pursuing peace, and to edify others, thereby themselves an example to others. Paul’s pattern / example.

Romans 14:19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

Paul also issues specific commands to his audience; behavior that Paul shows in his life, thereby showing an example for all to follow:

If a brother is not following the Spirit's leading, and instead lives disorderly, and not according to the pattern they see in Paul, they should not associate with such a person. Paul's pattern / example.

### II Thessalonians 3

:6 ¶ Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

:7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

How do we follow Paul in behavior? What does he mean here? What are his instructions in this matter? Paul clearly defines a life of providing for your own needs. Paul's pattern / example.

8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

Paul's example here is to work to make your own way, not take from another, provide for yourself, and have no company with those that do not follow this example.

11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

15 Yet count [him] not as an enemy, but admonish [him] as a brother.

**Now this is an important piece of text.** It shows Paul's example, and what it is that Paul offers believers – his pattern and example, not so much as to mechanically emulate as though it were a law to obey, but what to expect in a life in the Spirit of God as the Spirit works through you, directing the choices you make.

Colossians 3:

1 ¶ If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above,

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

5 ¶ Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

8 ¶ But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

10 And have put on the new [man], which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

12 ¶ Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long suffering;

13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another,

14 And above all these things [put on] charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another

17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

18-22 Wives, husbands, children, fathers, servants, masters,

23 And whatsoever ye do, do [it] heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Colossians 4:

5 ¶ Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

6 Let your speech [be] alway with grace,

And there are many more such verses throughout the Pauline epistles about Paul's pattern and example to us.

## What Paul Does Not Say

**NOTICE:** Nowhere in Paul's letters to the churches do we find commands, patterns, or examples of him giving the Body of Christ a ministry of reconciliation, nor does he dub believers "ambassadors", or tell believers to "evangelize"; or command them to "share" the Gospel (of Paul) in their own personal mission or ministry, or to "GO YE". Paul does not say it is the responsibility of every believer to share his Gospel, or that it is our occupation, an obligation of your salvation; or evangelism is the sole reason we are on earth, or to be a missionary just like Paul, as many false religions teach.

Paul nowhere says God will call every believer to account for every opportunity they had to share the Gospel but did not. These concepts and sentiments are found nowhere in the Bible: they are made up; figments of someone's imagination to embellish their personal, errant religion and false fantasy ministries beyond the boundaries of Scripture. These false prophets do nothing but lead the uninformed astray. If Paul wanted to say such things, he would have done so. He had ample opportunity in his 30 years of ministry and in his 13 epistles, **but he did not**. Yet, Protestant churches preach such things boldly and passionately, as if written throughout the Bible as the truth and the law of God. **It is neither.**

Paul warned his churches to beware of false teachers preaching a different Jesus, and flee from those teaching another Spirit, and a false gospel. This warning applies just as much to us today. **Paul's pattern / example.**

**Fun Fact:** If the Apostle Paul were with us today, he would warn the Body of Christ to have nothing to do with the false religions of Christianity and their false gospels, false Jesus, and false Spirit. And he would have no doubt thrown in an anathema or two.

**The Body of Christ is not a religion. It is a relationship with God, and the indwelling Spirit.**

Forget the modern-day phony-baloney religions and become a Biblicist. Then you will know the truth and the Spirit will lead you into the life-pattern God has specifically for you, just as He did the Apostle Paul.

***Now that's an example!***

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