

**Philippians 3:15** – “Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.”

3745 [e]	3767 [e]	5046 [e]	3778 [e]	5426 [e]	2532 [e]	1487 [e]	5100 [e]	2088 [e]	5426 [e]	2532 [e]	3778 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]
Hosoi	oun	teleioi	touto	phronōmen	kai	ei	ti	heterōs	phroneite	kai	touto	ho	Theos
15 Ὅσοι	οὖν	τέλειοι	τοῦτο	φρονῶμεν ;	καὶ	εἴ	τι	ἐτέρως	φρονεῖτε ,	καὶ	τοῦτο	ὁ	Θεὸς
As many as	therefore	[are] mature	this	should be of mind	and	if [in]	anything	differently	you are minded	even	this	-	God
RelPro-NMP	Conj	Adj-NMP	DPro-ANS	V-PSA-1P	Conj	Conj	IPro-ANS	Adv	V-PIA-2P	Conj	DPro-ANS	Art-NMS	N-NMS

4771 [e] 601 [e]  
 hymn apokalypsei  
 ὑμῖν ἀποκαλύψει .  
 to you will reveal  
 PPro-D2P V-FIA-3S

- “As many as” is a term that means “as many as” or “these” without even considering the concept of “those who do/those who don’t. In other words it means “all in this group”
  - This same word is used in Romans 8:14 when Paul writes “as many as are led by the Spirit, these are the children of God.” This is even more obvious when read after Romans 8:9.
- Notice that the NIV and the ESV do not translate the *oun* which means “therefore”
  - With this Paul begins to make application of his testimony which describes his own mindset or view that began in 3:4
- “mature” is from *teleioi* which could also be translated “perfect”, but the context is speaking of maturity
  - Paul is reclaiming the word “perfect” (or, *teleioi*) and giving it the proper definition.
  - Paul says those who claim to be “perfect” should be thinking the way Paul has just described.
  - Here Paul identifies with the “mature” (*teleioi*) just like he did with the “strong” in Romans 15.
  - Christ-centered life as Paul described it was maturity
  - *Teleioi* in time and eternity
    - *Teleioi* in time is “mature” with the mind set on striving for Christ
    - *Teleioi* in eternity is “perfection” glorified in Christ’s presence
- “think this way” or “this should be of mind” from *phronomen* is referring to the two minds that Paul has just used as examples for the Philippians to be “like minded” with:
  - One, Christ in 2:5-11
    - 2:2 uses *to auto phronete* or “the same you-might-be-of-mind” (NIV “being like minded”)
    - 2:5 uses *touto phroneite ev humin* or “This let-mind-be in you” (NIV “Your attitude should be”)
  - Two, Paul in 3:4-11
    - 3:4 uses *dokei* or “thinks”
    - 3:15 uses *touto phronomen* or “this should-be-of-mind” (NIV “should take such a view of things”  
and  
3:15 also says *ti heteros phroneite* or “anything differently you-are-minded” (NIV “some point you think differently”)
  - The Contrast: The counterview Paul presents also uses *phroneite*:
    - 3:19 uses *ta epigeia phronountes* or “things earthly minding” (NIV “Their mind is on earthly things.”)
    - 4:2 uses *to auto phronein* or “the same to-be-of-mind” (NIV “to agree with each other in the Lord.”)
- But, such a mature view is not easily attained. Some will not be able to understand or to appreciate the Christ-centered life.
  - These are the non-perfect or the non-mature.
  - They are not rebuked by Paul, but encouraged to continue their pursuit of Truth and God will reveal it to them in time.
  - There is the danger of those who do not understand to:
    - One, find a short cut to what could pass as maturity or perfection.

- Legalism
- Christian-like lingo or behavior or hangouts, etc.
- Two, become critical in their ignorance of Paul and mature believers who are the strong living in freedom and pursuing Christ and not religion or church activities.
- “That too” is *kai touto* which could mean:
  - One, beside the supposed divine revelation and voices of the Holy Spirit they have heard (Paul being sarcastic; referring to things like 2 Corinthians 12:1), God will also reveal to them the basic Christian principles he has already revealed to the apostles, church leaders and through his Word. It is unlikely Paul is being sarcastic here since he does seem to be addressing an opposition party at Philippi.
  - Or, two, Paul is saying with sincerity that God will continue to be faithful to those who pursue Truth to reveal the same plan of action and course of life that he has.
  - Paul is speaking to friends here who may not fully understand and Paul is giving them room to disagree with him without condemning them or breaking fellowship with them

**Philippians 3:16** – “Only let us hold true to what we have attained.”

4133 [e]	1519 [e]	3739 [e]	5348 [e]	3588 [e]	846 [e]	4748 [e]	2583 [e]	3588 [e]	846 [e]	5426 [e]
plēn	eis	ho	ephthasamen	tō	autō	stoichein	kanoni	to	auto	phronein
16 πλήν	εἰς	ὁ	ἐφθάσαμεν	, τῷ	αὐτῷ	στοιχεῖν	· κανόνι	τὸ	αὐτὸ	φρονεῖν
Nevertheless	to	that which	we have attained	by the	same	to walk	rule	the	same	mind
Conj	Prep	RelPro-ANS	V-AIA-1P	Art-DNS	PPro-DM3S	V-PNA	N-DMS	Art-ANS	Adj-ANS	V-PNA

- Note: there is no word for “rule” which appears in some translations. (It is NOT placed into the RSV, ESV or NIV). The addition in some translations is to clarify by gaining support from Galatians 6:16 where “rule” is translated from “kanon
- Stoichein or “to walk” or “hold true to” was originally a military term which meant “to be in a rank, or series”.
  - This would be yet another call for unity.
  - The military family histories of Philippi would have recognized this word and its meaning.
  - This is direction to obtain the correct mind-set/position and translate that mind-set/position into action/performance.
  - After having given the Philippians room to differ from some of his understanding as he gives them room to grow, Paul now returns to state the same thing he said about having the same mind, but now does so in application.
  - This is the verse that takes the correct thinking and makes it manifest as correct behavior.
- What is it that they (and, Paul) have attained?
  - It is NOT a “rule” or a “law”
  - It IS some understanding or mindset that determines their behavior.
  - What they have understood is the Gospel and Christ’s nature. (Paul uses himself as an example.) So, what they have attained is an understanding of the humble, self-sacrificing service that Christ has demonstrated and that Paul is seeking after.
  - So, what they have attained is the standard of humility and service which when applied by each of them will lead to unity.

**Philippians 3:17** – “Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.”

4831 [e]	1473 [e]	1096 [e]	80 [e]	2532 [e]	4648 [e]	3588 [e]	3779 [e]	4043 [e]	2531 [e]	2192 [e]	5179 [e]
Symmimētai	mou	ginesthe	adelphoi	kai	skopeite	tous	houtō	peripatountas	kathōs	echete	typon
17 Συμμιμηταί*	μου	γίνεσθε	, ἀδελφοί	, καὶ	σκοπεῖτε	τοὺς	οὕτω*	περιπατοῦντας	, καθὼς	ἔχετε	τύπον
Imitators together	of me	be	brothers	and	consider	those	thus	walking	as	you have [for]	a pattern
N-NMP	PPro-G1S	V-PMM/P-2P	N-VMP	Conj	V-PMA-2P	Art-AMP	Adv	V-PPA-AMP	Adv	V-PIA-2P	N-AMS

1473 [e]

hēmas

ἡμᾶς .

us

PPro-A1P

- *Summimetai* or “imitators-together” or “fellow-imitator”
  - Compound word from *sum-* and *-mimetes*
  - This compound appears only here in Paul’s writings and only here in Greek
    - The non-compound form appears in 1 Thes. 1:6; 2:14, and also in Hebrew 6:12 and 13:7 and 3 John 11.
    - The Philippians are being told to join together (to unify) by imitating Paul
      - First, his mind
      - Second, his behavior