

A MODEL CHURCH

Philippi church established by Paul and Silas (Act.16:12)

Lydia and household converted. vv. 13-15

Paul removed spirit of divination from slave girl vv.16-18

Paul and Silas thrown into prison, jailer and his household converted. vv.19-40

Church began amid stormy conflict.

Letter indicates they made great spiritual progress.

They experienced little internal conflict.

There is a noticeable lack of problems that Paul had to address.

Possibly a "model" church. (Model=a pattern, something to emulate)

WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE CHURCH AT PHILIPPI

Difficulties at beginning not necessarily harmful.

Knew firsthand what it took to plant "seed of kingdom."

Observed example of suffering in Paul and Silas.

Only the truly dedicated will be a part.

Fearful will not be involved. Joh.12:42-43

A 'MODEL CHURCH'

Properly organized. 1:1

Problems minimized with qualified, active overseers. Act.20:28-30

Flock fed and led, and protected. 1Pe.5:2-3; Tit.1:9ff.

Disciplined (instructing and correcting) accomplished with good leadership.

Abounded in love. 1:9.

Without knowledge and discernment: "biting and devouring one another." Gal.5:14-15

● Not "mushy" love, but intelligent *agape*.

Love with discernment becomes the "tie that binds". 2:1-2

Such a climate is conducive to spiritual growth and activity.

Concerned with others. 1:5

Helped Paul on several occasions. 4:10, 14-16

Supplied moral support 1:26.

Did this while some others were envious and full of strife. 1:15-17

Concern must go beyond "own" concerns (personal and congregational).

Phi.2:3-4.

Filled with fruit of righteousness. 1:11. cf. Gal.5:22-23

Put Jam.1:25, 2:12 into practice.

Always obeyed. 2:12

Aware that obedience is to continue even when others not around.

Obedience is what keeps faith "alive and well". Jam.2:24-26

Forewarned by Paul's repeated admonitions. 3:1-2, 18.

Reminded of important teachings, dangers from without/within, etc.

Constant reminders builds a strong church. 2Pe.1:12-15

'MODEL' CHURCH MADE UP OF ORDINARY PEOPLE

They had to "work out" their own salvation like all others.

Had to put up with opposition. Phi.3:2

Had to persevere. 1:9-10, 27

Had to overcome adversities. 1:28

Had to deal with worldly brethren. 3:18-19

Needed to live in harmony with other members. 4:2

EACH CONGREGATION'S CONDITION: THE SUM OF IT'S MEMBER'S CONDITION

Each member supplies their part to the whole.

Each member busies him/herself with "working out salvation."

May each one of us strive to have this church resemble the church at Philippi.