

Philippians - Core Help 3:1-14

Goals: The goal of this study is to help your Core group keep getting to know each other, but also to help Core members assess what they are putting their confidence and identity in a few weeks into college. This Core presents an invitation to place confidence in Christ.

Openers:

- Not everyone's life radically changes, but have any of you had the experience where you or someone you know had a radical shift in their life after knowing Christ? Describe that shift and what was different.

Scripture: The Scripture we're gonna look at presents a contrast between what some religious people were requiring of people in order to be in right standing with God and Paul's urge to not place our confidence in these things but instead in Christ.

Read Philippians 3:1-14

Observations:

- Background: Essentially, Paul was the Harvard elite on the religious scene with all the top qualifications of being what would be considered "righteous," but he realizes that none of those things actually gain him righteousness or right-relatedness with God.
- In verses 4-6, what are some things found on Paul's "religious resume" in the past?
- What are some things today that we are tempted to boost our religious resume with?

Interpretations:

- Though Paul previously gained confidence and found his identity in those things listed on his "religious resume" why do you think he now considers it all as loss? (urge core members to dig deep and get their answers from the text in verses 7-9)
- Why was Paul seem so excited about that? Why is it actually such good news and what does that tell us about Christ?
- Pretend you knew Paul before he knew Christ when he was in his zealously legalistic religious mode, and then you caught up with him now, what might be running through your head as you heard Paul talk of righteousness coming from God by faith, not by our own efforts?

Applications:

- Think of the list of things potentially on our religious resume you could (or do) place confidence in, what things are most a struggle or temptation for you to put your trust in?
- What would it look like to lay those things down and instead place your confidence and identity in Christ? What might change? What might stay the same?
- Have people pray in pairs for each other to lay things down and find confidence in Christ.