

Life Group Discussion Guide

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
COST AND VALUE

Philippians 3:4-9

Stuart Jones - October 30, 2016



INTRODUCTION

“But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.” Philippians 3:7

We all have prized possessions we hold close to our heart. From technological gizmos to transportation items to family treasures passed down to us, there are things in our life on which we place great importance and value.

In today’s study passage the apostle Paul reminds us all those things pale in comparison to the gift God has given us through his grace and mercy. What we often consider to be valuable on this earth has absolutely no value in determining our eternal fate. What we should hold close to is the knowledge that Jesus has paved the way to our eternal joy.

DISCUSSION STARTER

1. When you were growing up, what Christmas gift did you wish for the most? What was your most memorable gift?
2. What things do people use to mark their importance (achievements, stuff, degrees, etc.)?

EVALUATE IT

1. What does “confidence in the flesh” mean? Good looks? Positive reputation? Education?
2. Read Philippians 3:4-6. Why does Paul mention all of these things in verses 4-6? Is he bragging?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 11:22-33. Compare the list in verses 4-6 to 2 Corinthians 11:22-33. What kinds of things has Paul been through?
4. What does it mean to consider everything a loss that he may gain Christ? Why should our identity and confidence be in the Lord?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Where does your value come from? In a culture where respect for Jesus is rapidly declining, do you mark your value by your accomplishments or by being a follower of Christ?
2. What do you need to start counting as rubbish for the sake of Christ?

ILLUSTRATION

We are not what we are. We are not even what others think we are. We are what we think others think we are.

If I were to draw a caricature that would symbolize the millions of adults with low self-esteem, I would depict a bowed, weary traveler. Over his shoulder I would place the end of a mile-long chain to which is attached tons of scrap iron, old tires and garbage of all types. Each piece of junk is inscribed with the details of some humiliation—a failure, an embarrassment—a rejection from the past. He could let go of the chain and free himself from the heavy load which immobilizes and exhausts him, but he is somehow convinced it must be dragged throughout life Paralyzed by its weight, he plods onward, digging a furrow in the good earth as he goes. You can free yourself from the weight of the chain if you will but turn it loose.

-James Dobson, Hide or Seek



Interested in joining or starting a Life Group?
Contact our Life Groups Minister.

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