

“IDENTITY CRISIS”

Philippians 3:7-11 - Pastor Bruce French

GETTING JOY

1. Joy comes through divine partnerships. Phil. 1:4-5
2. Joy comes through loving without walls. Phil. 1:9
3. Joy comes through seeing problems as possibilities. Phil. 1:18
4. Joy comes through an assurance of a secure future. Phil. 1:21
5. Joy comes through a God-honoring conduct. Phil. 1:27
6. Joy comes through loving relationships. Phil. 2:3-4
7. Joy comes through humble attitudes. Phil. 2:5-6
8. Joy comes through discovering God’s plan. Phil. 2:12-13
9. Joy comes through godly friends. Phil. 2:20-21
10. Joy comes through following Christ’s lead. Phil. 3:3

What comes from an identity in Christ?

1. Identity in Christ is _____. Phil. 3:10a

ACTION: See your weakness as a means of _____.

2. Identity in Christ is _____. Phil. 3:10b

ACTION: See your sorrow as a means of _____.

3. Identity in Christ is _____. Phil. 3:10c

ACTION: See your life as a means of _____.

Take Home Truth

Discovering your _____ in Christ is a
_____ pursuit. Phil. 3:8

Today’s Core Belief:

Jesus Christ “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin – that He suffered, was crucified, buried, but rose on the third day, after which He ascended into heaven where He sits at the Father’s right hand.” (from Hebrews 1:3)

Today’s Action: Carry out the three actions.



Deeper Connection Study

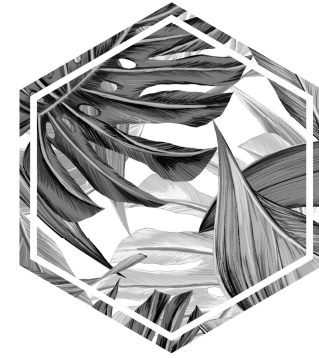
The closer you get to Christ, the better your perspective on life will be. Paul had reason to brag about his credentials (3:1-6) in the context of a worldly value of prominence, but this soon faded when compared to knowing Jesus.

Today's Core Practice discussed: Giving Away My Life.

Read Philippians 3:7-11

1. How does Paul compare his past position to his relationship with Jesus Christ (cf. Matt. 10:39; Lk. 9:25)?
2. What is he saying about the difference between legalistic righteousness and the righteousness that comes through faith in Christ (vv. 9-11; cf. Rom. 3:20-28)?
3. How does legalism hinder us from knowing Christ and rejoicing in God?
4. For you personally, how does knowing Christ surpass worldly credentials, accomplishments, and possessions? How have you been able to gain this divine perspective?
5. What is Paul's motivation and how does it help him focus on Christ (vv. 10-11)? How do his words surprise you or challenge you in the way you follow Jesus?
6. How well do you know Jesus Christ? What distracts you from growing in your relationship with Jesus? In what ways have you recently grown in intimacy with Christ?

PRAYER TO THE POINT: Praise God for his grace and mercy. Pray for a deeper desire to know Jesus and his surpassing worth above all things.



life is good.

Finding Joy in Tough Times

It seems that every generation struggles to find their identity. In the Apostle Paul's generation many were seeking to find their identity in religion. Subsequently many of Paul's epistles addressed the problem of a group known as the Judaizers who were endeavoring to impose their idea of a "work based" salvation upon the Gentile believers. Their trouble, as Paul addressed it, was that they were seeking to find their identity in their rites and rituals.

There are still people who futilely seek to find their identity in religion. Many will go on pilgrimages looking for guidance from religious docents. Others pursue it through dogma and denominational ties. Yet, like generations before, there are those who still make the mistake of trying to find it in possessions, wealth, popularity and worldly success. The tragic outcome of these useless pursuits is that there is now an entire generation of young people who have seen the futility of these endeavors and as a result are assuming that their identity can be found in a particular sexual orientation. How about you? Where are you finding your identity? Is it possible that your pursuits are nothing more than rubbish?

