

The Honest Truth

The Truth about Performance Based Acceptance: Part 2 Philippians 3:3-10

United Community Church, 2-11-24

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Truth: Your ultimate pursuit as a Christ follower is to grow in your relationship with Christ so that He can transform your heart and lead you to follow Him and serve Him faithfully.

Four Traps of Performance Based Faith

- Performance Trap – I will follow the rules and be the best at any cost.
- Approval Trap – I need others to validate me.
- Blame Trap – I blame others for my failures.
- Shame Trap – I feel shame and guilt because I never measure up to what I think others think of me.

Trap 2: Approval Trap

- Approval Trap – “Need for other’s approval” to feel good about myself. Before Paul met Christ, he believed he earned God’s approval when he followed the law.
 - Consequences – fear of rejection leads to being a people pleaser, sensitive to criticism, easily manipulated, co-dependent.
 - God’s Truth – I am reconciled to Christ – my relationship with Christ is restored through Christ. I am accepted by God (Col 1:21-22).
 - Bottom line – We can never be accepted by God through our works because we are all sinners. However, this does not excuse us to continue in sin. We draw our strength and direction from the Holy Spirit, godly mentors, and God’s Word.

Trap 3: Blame Trap

- Blame Trap – “Me centered” I am what I am, I cannot change, and I am right and everyone else is wrong. Paul’s belief that he was right and others were wrong kept him from knowing Christ personally.
 - Consequences – fear of punishment leads to blame others for my failures, self-inflicted punishment, bitterness, causing others pain.
 - God’s Truth – God is the propitiation for my sin – Christ satisfied God’s wrath by His death on the cross. Satan cannot accuse (blame) me because I am whole in Christ (1 John 4:9-11).
 - Bottom line – You cannot experience the spirit filled joy filled abundant life apart from a daily walk with a personal God who cares about every detail of your life. Don’t use the blame game as an excuse for not allowing Christ to work in your life because you want life to go your way instead of following God’s will.

Trap 4: Shame Trap

- Shame Trap – I focus on my failures and feel guilt and shame. When Paul followed Christ, the Pharisees tried to shame and ridicule him but his value rested in his walk with God.
 - Consequences – feelings of shame, hopelessness.

- God's Truth – We can walk in the newness of life in Christ. With the help of the Holy Spirit, the Bible, and others, I can overcome sin and live in righteousness (Rom 5:6-14).
- Bottom line – The world will try to shame you for following Christ, ridicule you, and if you listen to them, you will feel ashamed. Remember who you are in Christ.

Paul's Solution to Freedom in Christ

Philippians 3:12-15

- The knowledge that I belong to Christ Jesus because He loved me.
- Forget my past so I can pursue a new life in Christ.
- Change my pursuit from doing life my way to following His call for my life – to know Him, serve Him, and reflect His righteousness in my life.

BOTTOM LINE

God has called all of us as Christ followers to follow Him.