

Philippians 3:2-11

2 Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. **3** For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God[b] and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— **4** though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: **5** circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; **6** as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law,[c] blameless. **7** But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. **8** Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— **10** that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, **11** that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Discussion/Journal Questions

Consider the five relationship bonds we have been discussing: Know, Trust, Rely, Commit, and Touch. In your relationship with God, which of these five would you say is the strongest? Which needs the most improvement?

One of the reasons why a tool like RAM is so important is because relationships do not run themselves. How have you seen this to be true in your own relationships? How have you seen this in your relationship with God?

In the sermon, John shared three relationship laws: The Law of Diminishing Returns, The Law of Slow Leaks, and The Law of Frequent Re-Alignments. How would you put these laws in your own words? What do these look like in terms of your relationship with God?

Read Deuteronomy 8:14 and 18. Why are we so prone to forget our relationship with God?

What rhythms or disciplines are important for us to practice in order to remember?

Loving others as God loves us means we seek to know and be known by them. Read 2 Corinthians 6:11 and 13. Why do we hesitate to open our hearts to others?

John shared three T's for knowing and listening with our hearts: Talk, Togetherness, and Time. Why are each of these important to our relationship with others? Why are they important in our relationship with God?

What are some practical steps you can take this week to increase the amount of talk, togetherness, and time with God this week? How can your group help you?

Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?

Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?

Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?