



CONNECTION KILLERS

CONNECTION KILLERS, PART 4: COMPARISON GAME

We compare ourselves with others. You can imagine the results already. Either you are prompted to feel smug and proud because your strengths outweigh his weaknesses—or, more often, you begin to feel threatened, inferior, and blue because you fail to measure up. Striving to emulate a self-imposed standard, you begin to slide from the pleasant plateau of the *real you* to the sinking sands of *I don't know who*. This sometimes leads to extreme role-playing where you try every way to adapt and alter your portrait to fit into someone else's frame. In simpler terms, you've pawned your real personality for a phony disguise.

BIG IDEA: Comparing ourselves to anyone other than the Creator will bring disappointment.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the most common ways you compare your life to others' lives?
2. Why do you think it's so natural to compare?
3. What kind of feelings or actions does comparison often lead to?
4. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Philippians 3:13-16:*

¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. ¹⁵ Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you. ¹⁶ But we must hold on to the progress we have already made. Philippians 3:13-16 (NLT)

5. Have you ever run or watched a race? What characteristics have you seen in successful competitors? What potential obstacles do runners face that could prevent them from finishing? How do they avoid or overcome them?
6. If you had to compare your life with Jesus right now to a track race, where would you be? Sitting on the sidelines? Warming up? At the starting blocks? Giving it your all?
7. What was Paul's attitude about his past?
8. How did Paul view the unwritten pages of life that were ahead of him?
9. What is something of your past that you need to let go of because it is dragging you down and keeping you from following Jesus with your whole heart?
10. As followers of Jesus, we are called to press on towards the goal to win the prize. What is the goal God calls us to reach?

MOVING FORWARD

We can't run someone else's race. When we compare ourselves to other people, we're telling God that our choices are his fault...that if he would entrust us with what someone else has we would behave differently. We need to take a breath, refocus on what God has given us, and run our own races. Celebrate what God has given others and leverage what God has given you.

