

THE JOY OF COUNTER-CULTURAL LIVING

Philippians 3:1-11

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The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Cell Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- As we flip the calendar over to a new year, many of us are thinking about resolutions or commitments.
 - What's one way that you would like to be more like Jesus one year from today?
 - What must you **start** doing if you want that to be true?
 - What must you **stop** doing if you want that to be true?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** the notes you took on Sunday. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you heard?
- **Read** Philippians 3:1-11. In his message, Pastor Brad encouraged us to respond to Biblical truth rather than cultural myths.

Cultural Myth #1: My salvation comes through outward conformity

- The Apostle Paul warns against believing that faith plus specific actions or traditions are necessary to be a Christian. What are some traditions you've noticed that are sometimes required for salvation?
- Have you personally ever had a "Jesus plus" view of salvation?

Biblical Truth #1: My salvation comes through inward transformation (Philippians 3:1-3)

- If you're comfortable doing so, talk to your group about your own faith journey and the way you have been inwardly transformed.
- What are some areas in your life where you may find yourself "behaving" in order to "belong"?

Cultural Myth #2: My worth comes by gaining

- How do people in your world fill in this blank: "If I finally get _____ I will have true joy?"
- How have you filled in that same blank recently?

Biblical Truth #2: My worth comes by losing (Philippians 3:4-11)

- Look through vs. 4-6 again. What might Paul's resume look like in today's world?
- Do you think it's possible to live with the same perspective Paul did in verse 7? Why or why not?
- Think about your own life - your schedule, your bank account, your upbringing, your education, your kids' accomplishments, your future goals, your dreams, etc. What is the one thing you might be holding on to that could keep you from knowing Jesus more this year? What will you do about it?

PRAY WITH EACH OTHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- As you begin this new calendar year, pray that your group will live by Biblical truth, not by cultural myths.

MEMORIZE FOR NEXT TIME

- *Philippians 3:8-9, "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 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."*

