

## Seeking God's Plan for Joyful Unity Unity Comes from Knowing Christ

3 principles to help us avoid the sin of self-righteousness:

### I. Self-Righteousness is Dangerous

#### A. Merits repetitive warnings

v. 1- *to write the same thing again is no trouble to me*

2 Peter 1:12-15 - *Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.*

Matthew 7:15 - *Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.*

Acts 20:28-30 - *Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.*

#### B. Merits stern warning

##### 1. by identification

Philippians 3:2 - *Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision;*

##### 2. by contrast

Philippians 3:3 - *for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh,*

1 Corinthians 11:25-26 - *In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.*

John 4:23-24 - *But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*

### II. Self-Righteousness is Empty

#### A. Paul's heritage

1. circumcised the 8th day
2. of the nation of Israel

3. of the tribe of Benjamin
4. a Hebrew of the Hebrews
5. as to the law, a Pharisee
6. as to zeal, a persecutor of the church
7. as to righteousness which is in the law, found blameless

B. His conclusion

Philippians 3:7 - *But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.*

verse 8 – *“I count them but rubbish”...*

skubala – dung

### III. Self-Righteousness is Unnecessary

A. The value of knowing Christ

Philippians 3:8 - *More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...*

know – ginowsko – experiential knowledge, or personal knowledge – shared life with Christ

Galatians 2:20 - *I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*

v. 8 – *the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.*

B. The possibility of gaining Christ

Jeremiah 9:23-24 - *Thus says the Lord, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the Lord.*

C. The security of being found in Christ

Philippians 3:9 - *and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,*

D. The potential of knowing Him more

Philippians 3:10 - *that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;*