

“Joy In The Everyday: Misplaced Confidence”

Growth Group Guide

August 23, 2026

WELCOME *(Connecting with each other)*

Tell a story of a time when you confidently bought a cheap knockoff of a name-brand product. Would you endorse it and buy it again?

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER *(Connecting with God)*

Open in prayer praising the Father who is the “real deal” and our life.

1 John 5:20 NCV. We also know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding so that we can know the True One. And our lives are in the True One and in his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the true God and the eternal life.

WORD *(Letting God speak to us)*

1. Paul says in Philippians 3:3 to put no confidence in the flesh. We have confidence in something that we think is good and can help us, not things that are bad and risky. But good flesh (living independent of God with good looking activity, education, moral-like living, etc.) is something to not put confidence in just like bad flesh. What do you think about this idea of there being good flesh?
2. What might be some types of good flesh we're tempted to trust in, and what is the temptation for us to rely on any variety of good flesh?
3. Because Adam and Eve ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, all of humanity knows good and evil. However, knowing and doing are two different things. Why do you think this is?
4. A simple definition of religion is: a person's attempts to try to reach God. Christianity is not a religion but a relationship. But a false type of Christianity can try to impress us into doing things to reach God. How can we tell if our Christian living is based on a relationship with God or on the false religious approach?
5. Oswald Chambers, says, “The great enemy of the life of faith in God is not sin, but the good which is not good enough. The good is always the enemy of the best.” What strikes you about his words? How does it connect to our discussion?
6. **Read Philippians 3:4-6.** Paul shares he hasn't just read about not putting confidence in the flesh, but he made the mistake of doing it in excellent fashion. How does his warning take on valuable meaning knowing he is speaking from experience—the flesh (good, bad, and everything in-between) doesn't work to give any status with God, any life-giving transformation, or a deeper relationship with Him?
7. Based on the context in Philippians 3:1-3, what do you think Paul's attitude was in sharing his stellar record? Understanding what Paul was after helps us learn from him and then how to encourage others.

8. Paul lists seven things he built his independent fleshly goodness on. Four were because of his ethnicity, and three are because of his religious activity and convictions. Why do you think these two areas (who we are because of where we come from and religious moral-like activity) are the ones we most likely build our good flesh around?
9. How is the Paul who wrote Philippians different from the one who was living out of his fleshly imitation goodness? What was Paul confronted with that caused him to be willing to change from the one to the other? (See Acts 9:1-7.)
10. Our good qualities are not bad in and of themselves; they are gifts. It's the source, flesh or Spirit, that powers their use that cause them to be destructive or life-giving. Thinking about some good qualities we have as people, how would those same qualities be different when powered by each source choice (flesh or Spirit)?

WALK *(Living out God's purposes)*

- ✓ **One Big Idea: Thinking that our independent fleshly goodness is enough keeps us from depending on God.** Independent imitation goodness (flesh) is a greater enemy for us than fleshly wickedness because it gives us a false confidence in ourselves. The question then becomes what areas could we be tempted in to think we're good enough and be duped into living from the flesh? Our ancestry, our family, our doctrine, our beliefs, how we do certain things, our morality, that we are more right than wrong? Something else? It's good to nail this down with God so you can kick your enemy to the curb. Ask God to show you where you might be being duped into walking out good flesh methods. Be unsparingly honest so you can cut from them once and for all, just like bad flesh. God's best and what he desires for us is a dependent, vibrant, life-giving relationship with Him.

WORLD *(Embracing God's heart for others)*

Child Evangelism Fellowship, the group that organizes the Good News Released Time classes (Bible Club during school hours) in our local elementary schools, including our adopted school Ridgeview Elementary, is gearing up for the start of a new school year. Bible Club classes will begin the week of September 28th. Join in praying for a good start to the year, for Bushnell students and adult leaders who will help with classes, for good listening hearts and ears, that school officials will work with CEF, and for the growth of small classes by children inviting their friends. Pray that CEF volunteers will be encouraged in Christ all year long. We can praise the Lord for the great summer CEF had too! This year in OR there were 141 teens trained to share Jesus with kids at Summer Day Clubs, County Fairs, and VBS's. Nine teens from our area have helped reach 97 children in four 5-Day Clubs/VBS's, 157 people at one fair, and 34 campers at one Day Camp. Four kids made a decision for Christ! The State Fair is next. Pray for lots of children to visit the booth and join a Bible Club this year.

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