

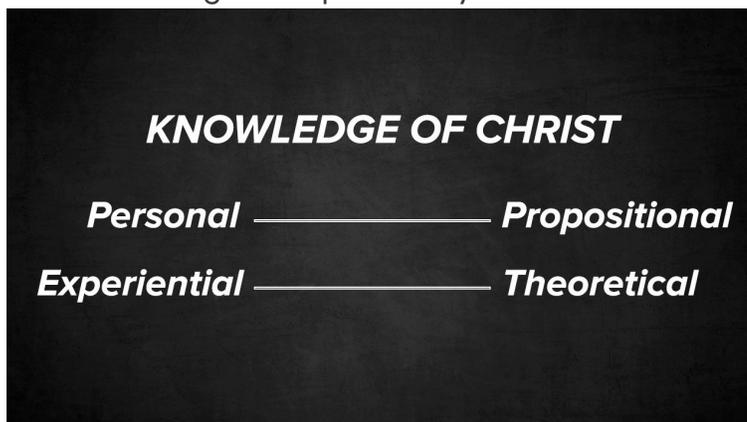
Philippians: Week 9 Study Questions

Philippians 3:8-11

Paul demonstrates his own personal, experiential knowledge of Jesus Christ, urging us to know Him in the same way. Instead of having a lofty, distant view of Jesus, we are able to step into a real relationship with Him.

Application

1. Paul shows us how to be both a leader and parent as he opens his life up to scrutiny. He understands that we cannot make ourselves an effective instrument of transformation in the lives of others unless we open ourselves up to being vulnerable to being judged. Who are you leading or serving, and how are you letting your frailty and brokenness shine through your leadership? In your areas of leadership or authority, how can you move towards vulnerability?
2. Have you had an encounter with Jesus that causes you to be willing to identify with Him above all else? Write out or tell your community group about a time when you decided to choose Jesus above everything and everyone else.
3. Paul recognizes that his identity and relationship with Jesus is a “we”; it is a relationship with a person to be known and embraced. What do you identify with most in this world? (Ex. school, hobby, team, sport, family, etc.) In what ways is it easier for you to identify more with something in this world than to identify with God? Is your relationship with Jesus first person or third person: is it “we” or “He”?
4. After listening to Bill White’s teaching, how would you describe your knowledge of Jesus: personal (experiential) or theoretical (propositional)? If you’ve recognized that your knowledge is merely theoretical, how can you move toward knowing Christ personally?



5. When we personally know Jesus, five experiences are true for us. Choose the one that resonates most with you and answer the following question(s).

- a. *We experience both gain and loss.* In this culture, we rarely have the opportunities for loss. What are you going to intentionally lose this week for the sake of Christ?
- b. *We experience humble dependence on Him.* How have you experienced humility and dependence on Jesus recently?
- c. *We experience the power of the resurrection.* (Romans 6) Because of the resurrection, you have a new master—sin does not rule you any longer. If you struggle to believe you have a new master, how have you been living with sin as your master? If you truly believe that Jesus was raised from the dead and frees you from the power of sin, how can that change your actions or behavior?
- d. *We experience shared suffering in Christ.* How are you currently suffering, and how does this grow your personal relationship with Jesus?
- e. *We experience death and denial of self;* the thing that I think would bring me life I give it up for the sake of Jesus. Where are you denying yourself for the sake of Christ?

Key Points

- If you have a relationship with Jesus that you identify as “we” instead of “He”, it will lead to experience and personal knowledge of Christ instead of merely theory and head knowledge.
- As we grow in our love for Him, we will learn to stop seeking lesser things.
- To lead children well, parents should encourage their children to repent, not just telling them to do it, but by modeling true repentance themselves—recognize their sin and repent from it. Parents have to model repentance in vulnerability.
- The means by which we live in the resurrection of Jesus and the hope of eternal life is knowing Christ experientially and personally.
- We cannot be an instrument of transformation in the lives of others unless we risk judgment through vulnerability.