

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

### EXPOSED IV

#### The World of Addictions

Pastor Stephen Goble - June 03, 2012



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. For all Rock Church events, please visit <http://www.sdrock.com/events/>.
2. Let your friends know that they can always live stream the Rock Church Sunday worship experience by visiting <http://www.sdrock.com/live/>.
3. We are currently in the process of rolling out our new Area Leader and Coach leadership team for the Small Group ministry. If you are interested in joining this team, or could use the benefits of having a Small Group Coach, please contact [john.darrow@sdrock.com](mailto:john.darrow@sdrock.com).

## MEMORY VERSE

“Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ has made me his own.” (Philippians 3:12 ESV)

“For freedom Christ has set us free, stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.” (Galatians 5:1 ESV)

## DISCUSSION STARTERS

(Use one or more of the following opening discussion starters)

1. We are all familiar with the so-called “destructive addictions” (i.e., drugs alcohol, pornography, etc.). But do you have any other things in your life that could be considered “addictive qualities?”
2. What do you believe is the source of certain addictive qualities and why?



## Sermon Review and Introduction

We all have experienced, or know somebody close to us, that has experienced some form of addiction. It destroys the lives of the addict and those around them. As Christians we need to know how to respond these life-troubling situations biblically. In Christ he have great freedom from destruction yet for some reason we see ourselves and our brothers and sisters in Christ falling into the same traps.

In Philippians 3 Paul paints a great picture of the freedom we have in Christ based on the wonderful gift we were given by his death, burial, and resurrection. The gospel does more than just save our souls from destruction, it frees us from spiritual bondage. Let's take a look at Phil. 3:12-21 in our study this week and the complete freedom we have in Jesus.

1. If necessary briefly review the lesson plan from Sunday and any extra notes you may have taken with the group.

How we react can push the individual farther into **addiction** and **further** from God.  
*Rom. 2:1-5, 15:1-2; Phil. 2:3; Heb. 2:18; Job 2:9*

Our response to others needs to **replicate** how God responds to us.  
*2 Tim. 2:13; Gal. 6:1-2; Eph. 4:32; Rom. 8:38-39*

Our addiction issues reveal a desire we all have for **satisfaction**.  
*Prov. 13:25; Phil. 3:18-19*

Freedom can only be experienced when we allow God to **fight** the battle.  
*2 Pet. 2:19; Gal. 5:1; 2 Chron. 20*

Add'l Notes:

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2. Examine the context of Philippians 3 together as a group. A few key things to consider before approaching this lesson:
  - Paul explains his position as a Jewish man in 3:5-6:
    - Circumcised on the 8<sup>th</sup> day (cf. Gen. 17:9-14; Lev. 12:3) – Arabs were typically circumcised at the age of 13 (cf. Gen. 17:23-27).
    - Of the people of Israel – This comes with many blessings and privileges for the Jewish people (cf. Rom. 9:4-5).
    - From the tribe of Benjamin – this was the tribe of Israel's first king, Saul. It was also part of the southern kingdom, Judah, after the tribes divided in 922 BC. Jesus also came from the tribe of Judah.



- A Hebrew of Hebrews – This idiom typically refers to pure racial status.
  - As to the law, a Pharisee - This was the conservative popular sect within Judaism that developed during the Maccabean period (cf. John 3:1). They desired to keep the Mosaic Law in every detail (cf. Acts 26:4–5). They had detailed regulations for every area of life that had developed over time in the discussion between the two schools of rabbis (Shammai and Hillel).
  - A persecutor of the church – Saul apparently imprisoned and possibly killed believers.
  - Righteous under the law, blameless – He was righteous according to his understanding of the Mosaic Law. The word blameless in the OT did not mean sinless, but one who had fulfilled that of which he understood of God’s will.
- However, he is much more interested in losing all of these privileged details of his life in order to **know** Christ Jesus.
  - The Greek word *ginosko*, to know, means to know theoretically. However, it doesn’t stop there. Once we know Jesus theoretically, we also live out this knowledge. We are new people. This is what Paul desires to know.
  - Paul tells us the 4 things he longs to know and practice (v.10-11):
    - That he may know Jesus personally. That he will know is attributes and character and qualities.
    - That he will know the power of his resurrection. What did the resurrection accomplish on behalf of the follower of Jesus?
    - That he may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death; glorious and renewed. This is the future hope of those in Christ.
    - That by any means possible he will attain the resurrection of the dead.
  - Paul use the verb “to press on” in vs. 12 and 14. This verb is in the PRESENT tense, which shows us continuous ongoing action. He is never fully accomplishing what he mentions in vs. 10-11 until Christ has returned, or until he is in glory with Jesus.
  - Paul commissions the Philippian church in v. 17 to imitate him and to follow the same standard of pressing on.
  - Paul continues in v. 18 to remind them who the enemies of the cross are:
    - They care about destruction
    - Their god is their belly. This means they feed themselves with life’s indulgences. They have disregard for pure and sound thinking, and
    - They glory in their shame. These are the “I will do whatever makes me happy and there is nothing you can do about it” people.
  - However, this is not what the follower of Jesus does. The follower of Christ:
    - Has their citizenship in heaven.
    - Is waiting for our Savior, Jesus Christ, to return and transform our bodies into glory.
    - Jesus does this by the same power that subjects all things to himself. He is holy, glorious, redeemer, and King! We wait patiently...

3. As a Pharisee, Paul knew the Pentateuch (first 5 books of the OT) by heart. He knew all about God and his character, and yet he still desires to know more about Jesus. There is more to be known. What do you suppose Paul wants to know?

4. Paul is still “pressing on” in his quest to love and serve Christ in the fullest manner possible. Consider the note below, how is Paul doing this? How does his passion for Jesus in this situation supersede anything else he is experiencing now?

Note: Paul is currently serving a jail term in Rome around 50-51 AD. Although we later find out he still has 10 years left to live, he doesn’t know this at the time, so the urgency can’t be felt through the epistle.

### **Application**



1. Paul is calling the Philippian church to follow and imitate his lifestyle. Based on the things Paul mentions about his pursuit of Christ, do you find yourself pursuing the same things? Or, are you still compromising by pursuing worldly passions? What satisfaction (or lack of satisfaction) do you receive from each?
2. In v. 19, Paul lists the attributes of the “enemies of the cross.” These people have a lack of self-control and are concerned with the pursuit of worldly success regardless of the outcome. Is it possible to be a follower of Christ and still pursue “earthly things?” Explain.  
Note: Of course it is ok to get an education, good paying job, nice house, etc. The aim is not these things (though these things could be the problem too), but rather the compromising behaviors that we justify, which in the long-term bring destruction.
3. Why do you suppose a lot of Christians compromise in their obedience for the drive to gain earthly wealth and attention? Why do you suppose non-Christians do the same thing?
4. Does your life reflect one whose “citizenship is in heaven?” Do you believe you have total freedom and victory in Christ based on what he has already accomplished for you? Explain.

### **Homework**

1. Read the entire book of Philippians everyday for one week. It should take you about 30 minutes to accomplish. Each time you read it, look at and notice key concepts that Paul mentions about the freedom we have in Christ solely based upon what he accomplished for us. Journal, meditate, and pray about these things. Allow the truth of the person and work of Christ to cause you to walk as one who is free and not condemned.
2. There are many that are living in bondage and fear and defeated that call themselves Christians. If you know at least one person in this state, teach them the truth you learned this week from Philippians 3. In v.17, Paul tells the Philippians to imitate him in following Christ. Be the Paul for someone else this week. Show them what it means to walk victoriously in Christ.

