



BIG IDEA

You don't have to earn God's love. You are made right with Him through Jesus—not through being perfect.

BIBLE

Philippians 3:4–9

ABOUT THIS WEEK

You don't have to earn your way to God—He already did the work through Jesus. When you trust in Christ, your identity isn't "what I've done," but "who I belong to." Real freedom comes from resting in grace, not striving for approval.

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

INTRODUCTION

- Today we're talking about one of the most important—and most exhausting—questions you've probably asked yourself: "Am I enough?"
- Whether it's in your grades, your relationships, your appearance, or your faith, that question shows up all the time.
- And if you've ever felt like the answer was "no," you're not alone.
- But what if the problem isn't that you're not doing enough—but that you're asking the wrong question altogether?

HOOK – The Pressure to Perform

- Think about your daily life. You're constantly being measured—by grades, scores, likes, followers, approval, comparison.
- It's easy to start believing the lie that **your worth is something you earn**.
 - So you perform. You try to be the right kind of person, say the right things, post the right pictures, and avoid the wrong labels.
- And then maybe—even in your faith—you start doing the same thing with God.
 - *If I just read my Bible more,*
 - *if I prayed harder...*
 - *if I stopped messing up,*
 - *then maybe I'd be enough.*

- But chasing perfection leads to burnout. And it misses the heart of the gospel entirely.

Paul's accomplishments

- Read **Philippians 3:4-9**
- In Philippians 3:4-9, Paul lists all the reasons he could brag about how "good" he was:
 - his religious background,
 - his rule-following,
 - his success.
- But then in verse 7, he says,
 - "I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done."
- In verse 9, he goes even further:
 - "I no longer count on my own righteousness...but I become righteous through faith in Christ."
- Paul realized that all of his effort, all of his striving, all of his reputation—it couldn't make him right with God.
- Only Jesus could do that. That's what grace is: being made right with God not by working harder, but by trusting deeper.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

- Let's be honest—this is where a lot of us live. Constantly performing, constantly proving, constantly pretending we're okay.
- We wear masks and build images and try to manage people's opinions of us, all while quietly wondering if we're ever really enough.
- And what makes it worse? Sometimes we treat God the same way. Like we have to earn His approval. Like His love is a reward we unlock with good behavior.
- But deep down, you know the truth: You'll never be perfect. You'll mess up. You'll fail. You'll feel stuck. And if your identity is built on performance, you'll break under the pressure.
- That's the tension. But here's the hope:
 - Jesus didn't come to recruit perfect people—He came to rescue broken ones.
- The gospel says: You are already fully known and fully loved.
- Jesus lived the perfect life you couldn't live, died the death you deserved, and rose again to give you a new identity—not based on what you do, but on what He's done.
- That means you don't have to earn your place with God. You just have to trust Him.
- And when you do, you are made right—not in theory, but in reality.
- That's the freedom you've been looking for.
- That's the answer to the question, "Am I enough?"
 - No—but Jesus is. And through Him, you already belong.

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

- So here's the challenge: Stop trying to earn what God has already given you.
- Rest in grace. If there's an area of your life where you've been performing—trying to prove something to others or to God—bring it to Jesus.
- Be honest with Him. And let His truth replace the lie.
- This week, every time you hear that voice saying, "You're not enough," respond with, "I don't have to be. Jesus is."

Closing Prayer and Dismissal to Small Group

- "God, thank You that we don't have to earn Your love. Thank You for making us right with You—not because we're perfect, but because of Jesus. Help us stop performing and start trusting. Show us what it means to live in the freedom of grace. Amen."