

Surprised by Joy: The Ideal Resumé

Philippians 3:1-11

Message Outline

I. *Why* do we have a resumé?

We want to be accepted.

II. *What's* on your resumé?

- Where are your "should's"?
- Where is your shame?

III. *What* do you do with your resumé?

1. Consciously reject relating to God on the basis of your resumé.
 2. Put all of your confidence in knowing God through Christ.
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Looking Back

Turning in a resumé is an important part of any application process, because in your resumé, you make a case for why you should get the job or acceptance into the school you want, etc. Well, what does it look like when you and I build a resumé for God? It turns out we all do this. And knowing why we do this, what's on our resumé, and what to do with the resumé we create is absolutely critical for our relationship with God.

Thinking It Through

disagree|agree, consider|contemplate

"Lay your deadly doing down, down at Jesus feet." – James Procter

"Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to the cross I cling." – Augustus Toplady

"We know we are saved by faith in Christ alone, but we assume we earn God's acceptance and blessings in our daily lives by our performance." – Jerry Bridges

Working it Out

1. Read Philippians 3:1-10. What initial observations can you make about Paul? What do you notice about his mood? What words or phrases do you see repeated?

2. Matt mentioned the framework of “make yourself worthy” that we see played out in the world religions and even secular culture. Why do you think the idea of grace or unmerited favor is so difficult to believe or grasp?
3. Read verses 3-6. What do you believe to be Paul’s motivation for these accomplishments?
4. Matt talked about why we build a resumé, that at our core, we want to be accepted, and we feel like to be accepted, we need to be right (however we define that to be). Do you agree with this? Why or why not?
5. The things that we cling to for acceptance before God are different than what Paul was clinging to. What are some things that you are tempted to “put on your resumé” (i.e. relate to God based on those characteristics or accomplishments)?
6. Matt offered two questions to help us identify what’s on your resumé – 1. Where are your “should’s”? And where is your shame?

Which of these two questions resonated most with you? Why?

7. Matt encouraged two actions based on the example of Paul in regards to our resumé. First, consciously reject relating to God on the basis of your resumé.

Is this difficult for you? Why or why not? And what does this look like for you moving forward?

8. Second, put all of your confidence in knowing God through Christ. What does this look for you today? What steps do you need to take to apply this?
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