



Leading People into a Growing Relationship with Jesus Christ!

Series: I Love My Church!

Message: "Looking Up"

Date: October 1-2, 2016

Learn

We as a church are on a journey from "here" to "there." "Here" is where we are at this moment in history; "there" is the culmination of "leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ!" This can be summarized by UP – Worship, IN – Community, and OUT – Outreach. Paul illustrates what his life looked like. His "here" had been pride in his prestige. His "there" was knowing Jesus as his provider, protector, and life-giver. Here is his account:

Philippians 3:3–11(NLT) "We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, 4 though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!

5 I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. 6 I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.

7 I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. 8 Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ 9 and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. 10 I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, 11 so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!"

Our greatest asset is KNOWING JESUS!

Take a moment and share how you came to know Jesus, a brief account of your "here to there." If you have not yet been made alive through the forgiveness of your sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit, perhaps you can share what questions or hesitations you are currently experiencing.



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Live

How to know if something is an asset or liability to our relationship with God:

Does it make me dependent on God, or does it make me self-reliant?

Does it make me more humble or more arrogant?

Does it make me love people or judge people?

Does it make me generous or stingy?

Does it build up or tear down my faith?

Does it cause me find my identity in Jesus or myself?

What relationship, experience, possession, or position can you begin to assess from this vantage point?

Love

Describe your attitude towards others when you:

- think very highly of yourself.
- assess yourself with the grace and humility of Jesus.

Lead

How does the process of failure met with God's forgiveness cause you to become a more valuable leader?

Why is someone with a "perfect past" and an "impeccable pedigree" ill-equipped to lead someone spiritually (with the obvious exception of Jesus, the Son of God)?

Pray!

THANK God for what He has done and is doing! ASK God for what you need!