

## Philippians 3:2-14 – Knowing God

**CONSIDER:** Churches are full of many folk from different backgrounds and experiences. How might this affect what we expect from church? How might it affect how I interact with others in church? How has the SBC vision: Know, Grow, Love, Sow – all for His glory impacted you?

### Read Phil 3:2-14

1. There are two places where confidence might be put in v2-4 – the flesh is one of them. What does it look like to have confidence in the flesh? What might it look like in our lives even as believers? (you might find help in v4-6 in answering this!)
2. It's important to have confidence, isn't it – not 'confidence in how you look', but a confidence that enables you to face the future, whatever happens. How does a flesh-based confidence fail in this? Share any experience you might have of this.
3. What, then is the other place we need to look for confidence (v2-4 again)? Because this is so important, Paul treats his old flesh based confidence ruthlessly – how does he describe it in v7-8? What might this look like for us in practice?
4. How does is Paul's deeply expressed desire of 'knowing Christ' (v8) related to obtaining confidence in the Spirit?
5. Spend some time to identify what is involved in 'knowing Christ'. What does this mean for you and I? How is this done in your life?
6. For Paul (v10-11) this goes deep – discuss some of the terms he uses. What do they mean? What do they mean for you?
7. This is vital! Look at v12-14 and the terms Paul uses. What might this look like in our daily lives? What should we do as individuals in response? What should we be seeking / doing as a church?

### AND FINALLY – APPLY & RESPOND:

- If there was one thing you could highlight that God is challenging you about to pray over / change / seek His help in, what is it?
- What can others pray for you to help you respond to His challenge?

**Don't forget to leave time to share and pray together.**

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