

STUDY 6. QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

1. Are there areas in your life where you are a perfectionist? How does that affect you and others around you?
2. **Read Philippians 3:12-21.**
 - a. What do you think is Paul's conception of "perfection"?
 - b. When does Paul think he will reach it? (See also v. 11)
3. **See verses 13-14.**
 - a. What is it that Paul needs to forget?
 - b. Are there aspects of our past that prevent us from being the Christians we are meant to be?
 - c. Can you redefine the concept of "forgetting"?
4. How much of our Christianity should be spontaneous and how much should be deliberated effort? (See also 2:12).
5. **See verses 11, 14, 20, 21.**
 - a. Could Paul's focus on life after death lead to the "pie in the sky" or the "layby" mentality, when we only focus on the future after-life?
 - b. What is your focus?
6. **See verse 15.**

Paul seems to be having a "shot" at some people in the church. Who do you think these people are?
7. **See verse 17.**
 - a. Paul sets himself up as a role model. Is that being arrogant?
 - b. Who has been your role model in your faith development?
 - c. Would you be game to set yourself up as a role model? In what way?
8. **See verse 18.**
 - a. How is it possible to be an enemy of the Cross of Christ?
 - b. Are there any contemporary enemies?
9. Some commentaries believe that Philippians 3:2 through to Chapter 4:1 is part of a separate letter. (Change of tone, break of argument.) What do you think?
10. **See Chapter 4:1.**
 - a. Why does Paul remind the early church to "stand firm"?
 - b. What is it in our church or our society that causes us to become wobbly in our faith?
11. **Review all of Phil. 3:2 - 4:1.**
 - a. What words does Paul use to describe the church?
 - b. What words are used to describe the enemies of the church?
12. What is the importance of this study for you?
OR, What do you find encouraging about this passage?