



An Unstable Climate

Philippians 3:3-8; 4:14

Message from Pastor Martin Hawley

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Bottom Line: Acceptance overpowers insecurity.

Introduction:

Climate dictates forecast. Not only is there a climate in each relationship, there's a climate you carry with you into every relationship and interaction.

Many people are unaware of what happens to the climate of the room when they arrive home or walk into a meeting at work. Do you? Do you know what happens to the climate when you walk into the room?

This is true for marriage, friendships, parenting – all our relationships.

Relationships are the greatest asset you have. Jesus said it this way when asked about the greatest commandment: Love God. Love People.

We ended last week with this assignment: Ask three people, “**What’s it like to be on the other side of me?**”

Today, I want to begin with the labels that we wear: Comments, Success, Failure, Experiences, Super Uncool, Insecurity.

Insecurities:

These labels begin to define us, and they form our **insecurities**. We're all insecure about something. Insecurity infects the climate of our relationships.

Everyone is insecure.

The world says, “Self-esteem is the cure for insecurity.”

The Bible offers a different alternative, and today you'll get to decide which one you want to lean into: self-esteem or the alternative.

_____ **is the cure for insecurity.**

The Apostle Paul leads us to the answer in the book of Philippians.

Philippians 3:3 (NIV84), "... we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh."

We who worship Jesus put no confidence in the flesh. The labels we tend to wear to build ourselves up and tear ourselves down, they're all rubbish.

Philippians 3:4-6 (NIV84), "...though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless."

Then, Paul talks about a trade...

Philippians 3:8 (NIV84), "But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage that I may gain Christ."

Paul began to see himself through another lense...

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV), "I can do all things **through Christ** who strengthens me."

At the heart of insecurity is the fear of rejection.

This is why self-esteem doesn't work!

_____ **is the cure for insecurity.**

Acceptance overpowers insecurity.

The climate of your relationships improves when **you** see **you** as

God sees **you**.

Conclusion:

Whose acceptance are you trying to achieve?

NEXT STEPS:

- Memorize: Philippians 4:13.**
- Meditate on "Through Christ" in Philippians 4:13.**
- Read the "Through Christ" card every day this week. .**
- Pray: God, help me see myself and others as you see us.**
- Return next week for Climate Change-Part 3: The Eye of the Storm.**

NEXT WEEK– Climate Change: The Eye of the Storm

Why did that friend snap back at your innocent comment? Why didn't your husband want to talk about what happened at work? In Paul's letter to the Philippians, he may have hit on the answer. In this message, we'll see how one of the most famous verses in the Bible can help us overcome insecurity's effects on our relationships.