



**Put no
confidence in
the flesh**

**Philippians
3:1-14**

Being a Christ-like community



Phil.

3

1

1 Further, my brothers and sisters,
rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for
me to write the same things to you
again, and it is a safeguard for you.



Phil.

3

2

2 Watch out for those **dogs**,
those **evildoers**, those
mutilators of the flesh.

Paul attacks the false teachers with carefully calculated insults

DOGS



Dogs were
unclean
animals

EVILDOERS



Opposite of
keeping
God's law

MUTILATORS



Like Baal
prophets in
1 Kings 18:28





Phil.

3

3

3 For it is **we who are the circumcision**

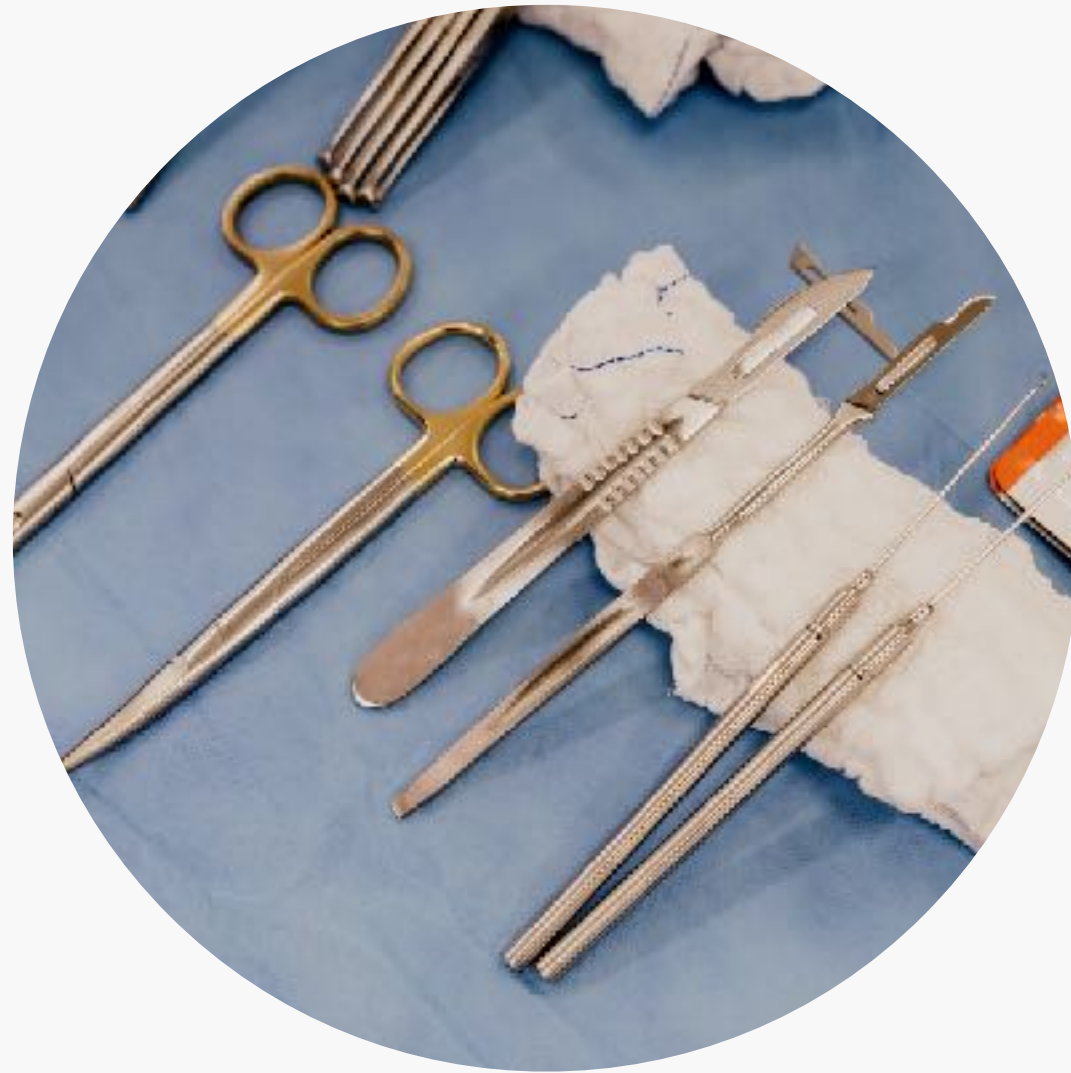
割禮, we who serve God by his Spirit,

who boast in Christ Jesus, and who

put no confidence in the flesh -

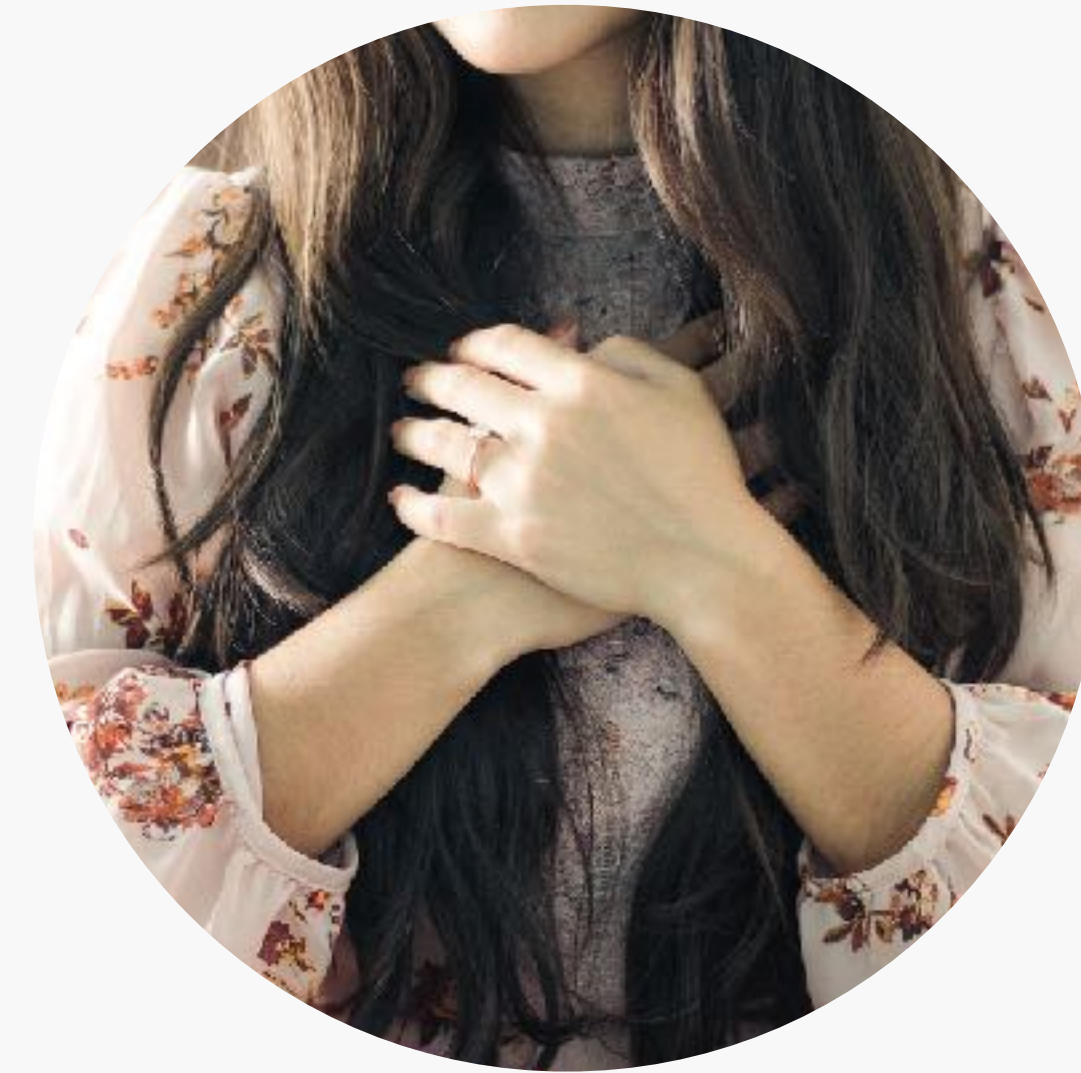
割禮 Circumcision & heart-circumcision

OLD COVENANT



Literal circumcision external
sign you are part of Old
Covenant community

NEW COVENANT



Figurative internal heart
circumcision through faith
in Jesus by Holy Spirit

“In Christ you were also circumcised with **a circumcision not performed by human hands**. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were **circumcised by Christ.**” Col. 2:11



“A removal of the stubbornness which prevents the heart from properly loving God.”





Phil.

**“For it is we
who are the
circumcision...”**

3:3

NEW POWER

“Who serve God
by his Spirit...”

NEW FOCUS

“Who boast in
Christ Jesus...”

NEW RELIANCE

“Who put no
confidence in
the flesh.”



Phil.

3

3b-4

┌ **3b** ...we put no confidence in the flesh -

4 though I myself have reasons for such
confidence. If someone else thinks they
have reasons to put confidence in the
flesh, I have more:

└

Paul's reasons to put confidence in the flesh, v5-6

PROFIT/GAIN 有益

INHERITED PRIVILEGES

- ▶ Circumcised
- ▶ Of the people of Israel
- ▶ Of the tribe of Benjamin
- ▶ A Hebrew of Hebrews



PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- ▶ A Pharisee
- ▶ Ultra-zealous
- ▶ Faultless law-keeping

LOSS/WORTHLESS 有損



Phil.

3

7

7 But whatever were gains 有益
to me I now consider loss 有損
for the sake of Christ.

Paul's reasons to put confidence in the flesh, v5-6

PROFIT/GAIN 有益

INHERITED PRIVILEGES

- ▶ Circumcised
 - ▶ Of the people of Israel
 - ▶ Of the tribe of Benjamin
 - ▶ A Hebrew of Hebrews
- Christ Jesus my

Lord."

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- ▶ A Pharisee
- ▶ Ultra-zealous
- ▶ Faultless law-keeping

LOSS/WORTHLESS 有損





Phil.

3

8

8 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...

**“I no longer have
any confidence in my
achievements...”**



**“I have all my
confidence in Jesus’
achievements...”**



Phil.

3

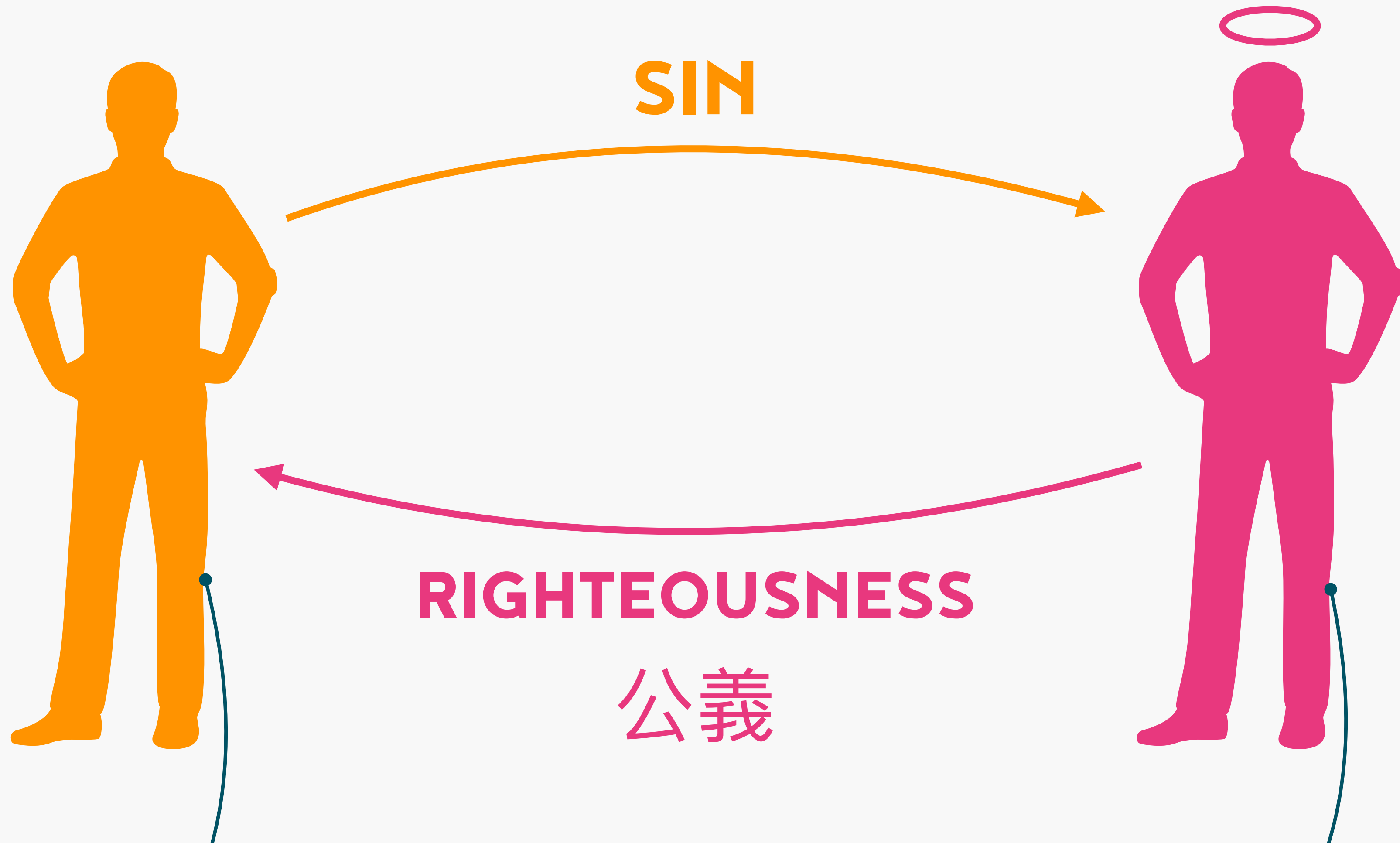
9

9 and be found in him, not having a
righteousness 公義 of my own that comes
from the law, but that which is through
faith in Christ – the righteousness that
comes from God on the basis of faith.

It's a gift!
Just
receive by
faith!



But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known. **This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ** to all who believe." Rom. 3:21-22



SIN

RIGHTEOUSNESS

公義

Someone who puts
their faith in Jesus

Jesus Christ



Phil.

3

10-11

10 I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,
11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.



“Not that I have already
obtained all this, or have
already arrived at my goal,
but I press on to take hold
of that for which Christ
Jesus took hold of me.”

Phil. 3:12



Press on!



“Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: **forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead**, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.”

Phil. 3:13–14

