

**PHILIPPIANS...PART XVII**  
"Pursuing perfection"  
Reference: **Philippians 3:11-16**  
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Paul started this section correcting the false teaching that spiritual perfectionism (i.e. entire sanctification) is possible in this lifetime. Perfection should be the ultimate goal of each Christian, but perfection isn't possible until heaven because we're still fallen humans. But Paul describes four specific steps that can bring us closer to that personal perfection.

**STEP ONE** is \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**verse twelve**, "*Not that I have already attained, or **am already perfected**; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.*"

**verse thirteen**, "*Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,*"

**verse fourteen**, "*I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*"

Reference: **Acts 14:11-15**

Two important reasons we should evaluate ourselves and admit to our human limitations and inadequacies

**One...** to deny our humanness sends a \_\_\_\_\_

**Two...** our humanness can be one of our greatest \_\_\_\_\_

Reference: **I Corinthians 1:26-31**

In this text Paul cites five categories of people that represent the different limitations that humanness brings, but these are the people God chooses' to use.

- God wants to use \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
**verse twenty-six**, "*For you see your calling, brethren; that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.*"  
**verse twenty-seven**, "*But **God has chosen the foolish things** of the world to put to shame the wise."*
- God wants to use those who are \_\_\_\_\_  
**verse twenty-seven**, "*and **God has chosen the weak things** of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;"*
- God wants to use those who are \_\_\_\_\_  
**verse twenty-eight**, "*and the **base things** of the world... God has chosen"*
- God wants to use those who are \_\_\_\_\_  
**verse twenty-eight** continued, "*and the **things** which are **despised** God has chosen."*
- God wants to use those who are \_\_\_\_\_  
**verse twenty-eight** continued, "*and the **things** which are **not**, to bring to nothing the things that are."*

Reference: **I Samuel 16:1** and **4-13**

Paul goes on to cite the basic reason these types of people are prime categories for God to use.

**verse twenty-nine**, "*that **no flesh should glory in His presence.***"  
**verse thirty**, "*But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God-and righteousness and sanctification and redemption-*"  
**verse thirty-one**, "*that, as it is written, '**He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.**'"*