

# SEMINAR 01: INTRODUCTION

## IDENTIFYING WHO YOU ARE

*"[God] hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling,  
not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace ..."*

~ 2 Timothy 1:9

### 1. The Most Important Thing

- a. The most important thing you can learn *after being saved* is your identity in Christ.
- b. Are you saved? Nothing we say this weekend is true for you unless you are.
- c. Do you know who you are? For years, I thought I was the same, only saved.
- d. Self-condemnation: "sinner saved by grace" "wretched man" not saint, holy, spiritual
  - i. God's will, living in Christ, walking after the Spirit, hope were mysteries to me
- e. God not only saved us, he called us, gave us an identity – 1 Tim 2:4, 2 Tim 1:9

### 2. Identity Crisis

- a. 20<sup>th</sup>c. psychologist, Erik Erikson, coined the term (not the idea) identity crisis.
- b. Identity ~*def.* Your personal beliefs, values, roles, and goals.
- c. Identity crisis ~*def.* Confusion about who you are, how you fit, where you are going
  - i. A failure to explore/commit to identity results in confusion, disorientation, unbelonging, lost, alone, lack of motivation, purpose, direction, poor decisions, irresponsibility, prolongs childhood, **keeps you from growing up.**
- d. You have something to prove, you need renewed, you need transformed - Rom 12:2
- e. Your understanding needs enlightened (but not by psychology) – Eph 1:18

### 3. Our Identity Problem

- a. Christians live life stuck in tradition w/o truth, seeking w/o finding – Col 2:8, 2Ti 3:7
- b. Christian identity crisis: mistaken identity is failure to live Christian life. Israel v BoC
  - i. Did God make them this way? Why does being Christian seem unnatural?
- c. Church identity crisis: What kind of Christian? Jesus follower? True church? His will?
- d. Cultural identity crisis: what kind of country/people are we? How do we see each other? Can we identify as whatever we want? Where are we going?

### 4. This Seminar

- a. The most important thing you can learn *after being saved* is who you are in Christ.
- b. Our identity is God-given. It is not something we work for → 2 Tim 1:9
- c. 3 identity questions – sessions built upon Romans 5-8 (identity chapters)
  - i. What is your name? What is in your mind and heart? What is your hope?
  - ii. You are in Christ, a saint, free, spiritual, son of God, member of his body...
- d. Strong identity gives us peace, joy, sound mind, responsibility, confidence, hope.
  - i. Best of all, we grow up in fulfillment of the calling God gave us. Rom 8:28