

IDENTITY IN CHRIST

Purpose: To understand our identities in Christ, how that identity affects our lives, and its importance to Gospel living.

Introduction

In light of the Gospel, disciples of Jesus find their identity in Jesus. All of the Christian life flows out of who we are. Finding our identity in Jesus changes everything. Our goal is to search scripture about who we truly are in Christ.

1. Read Matthew 3:13-17 and summarize what is going on in this passage.
2. From whom does Jesus gain his identity?
3. What did God tell Jesus in this passage?
4. What great miracles and works did Jesus do before this moment?

5. What implications does this reality have for our lives?

6. Do you have the tendency to gain or seek your identity through your actions, successes, and/or failures? How?

7. Read Galatians 2:20. As Christians, from where do we gain our identity?

Our Identities From God The Father

It is important to remember what the Father calls us, because what he says about us *is the foundation* for our identities.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 and answer the following questions:

8. What do you think Paul mean when he says, “regard no one according to the flesh”? (v. 16)

9. What does verse 17 mean when it says the “old” has passed away and the “new” has come? What are the implications of this truth?

10. From where does this new life come? (vs 18)

11. List and explain what each verse says about our identity in Christ:

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Identity</i>
Romans 8:16-17	
1 John 3:1	
Romans 6:17-18	
1 Peter 2:9-10	
John 15:5	
1 Corinthians 1:2	

12. Find another three verses about our identity in Christ. (List and explain.)

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Identity</i>

13. Which of these identities speaks to you most? Why?

Lordship in Christ

Another part of our identity is looking at who God made Jesus to be in our lives. Jesus is our Lord, a word that can be defined as one having power and authority over others, or a ruler by hereditary right or preeminence to whom service and obedience are due.

Read Philippians 2:5-11 and answer the following questions:

14. Who made Jesus Lord of Creation?

15. Why did God make Him Lord?

16. What does the nature of Jesus' humility, servanthood, and submission reveal to us about the character of his lordship?

Read Colossians 1:15-23 and answer the following questions:

17. What attributes of Christ are found in this passage that describe his authority?

18. Why is it important to know that "in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell?"

19. Where do you see the Gospel in this passage?

20. How does Christ's identity help you call him Lord and remain obedient to him?

21. Does your life say Jesus is Lord? Why or why not?

Conclusion

22. Where have you found your “identity” in the past?

23. What parts of your new identity really resonate with your heart?

24. Why is it so important to understand our identities in Christ? How does it affect our everyday lives?

25. How does the Gospel relate to our identity or how we define ourselves?

26. How does our understanding of our identities in Christ affect the Gospel being lived out in our lives?

Sharing Our Identity

One of the easiest ways to share our identity in Christ is through the story of how we came to know Jesus as Lord. Our stories are one of the most powerful witnesses to the truth of the Gospel. Our stories answer the three questions below.

- When and how did you become a Christian?
- What did God save you from?
- How is He working in your life now?

27. Take some time to write out your testimony and answer the above 3 questions. Testimonies should be around 10-15 minutes. Focus more on what God has done for you and what he has brought you out of. Glorify God, not your sin.

Memory Verse

Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.