

## What do you identify as? 1 Peter 2:1-12

If I were to ask you who Michael Jordan is what would you say?

- What about John F. Kennedy?
- Mother Theresa
- Tom Brady

What if I ask you who you are?

- What if I ask your neighbor or someone you work with?
- **Pro 18:17 The first one to plead his cause seems right, until his neighbor comes and examines him.**

Our study for this evening will be on who or what has first place in your heart?

Our identity will be tied to whatever we give our heart to.

- This is why people should never give their heart to someone before they have given their life to Jesus Christ.
  - And even then does the Lord have first right of refusal?

When you find your identity in Christ your creator it will change your whole perspective.

Who or what have we allowed to define us?

- Peers
- A boy / girlfriend
- A job / career
- Friends
- Parents
- Society
- People we don't even like
- People today "identify" as almost anything. But should our feelings be what govern who and what we are? Our heart or feelings are not necessarily trustworthy.
  - **Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"**

**1Pe 2:10 NLT "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy."**

## 1 Peter chapter 2

**1Pe 2:1-3 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.**

- Peter had just established that the Word of God is the incorruptible seed through which salvation comes and it is eternal. In light of what God's word is to us, we must receive that word with a particular heart or perspective.
  - So in light of that lay aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking
- This might sound weird but we shouldn't just settle for or be satisfied with good behavior if our heart isn't in it. THAT'S RELIGION
  - If we are just going through the motions but feel empty we need to ask God to change our heart.
    - **Matthew 6:10 . . . Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**
    - OWN THAT
- Back to verse 2 Desire is not a passive term.
  - e-pē-po-the'-ō - It speaks of our deepest longing or hunger or thirst.
  - **Psalm 42:1 As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.**
- It is a normal or natural bodily function for a newborn infant to desire its mother's milk.
  - If the infant has to have the milk forced upon it there is a problem.
  - If the baby doesn't receive it, it will very soon get weak and ill.
- That is why it is vitally important for new believers to get established in the Word of God so they can grow in the Lord.
  - And eventually get to the meat of the Word. But the foundation has to be established or laid first.
    - If this step is skipped then they will not be ready to take the meat. They will choke on it.
    - Then they are vulnerable to others bringing in weird false doctrine passing it off as "the real meat of the word."

- You have to have your identity only in the Lord Jesus and the work that He has done for you.
  - His death, burial and resurrection

**1Pe 2:4-5 Coming to Him (Jesus) as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, <sup>5</sup> you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**

- Do you see yourself as being built up by God Himself?
- As part of His building project?
- Some people will invite or give God time to speak at the events of their lives
  - It is a whole different matter when it is His show and He invites us to have a part in what He is doing.
    - It is His show!
- When He is leading and directing everything we can take our rightful place and offer sacrifices that are acceptable to Him.

**1Pe 2:6-8 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."**

**<sup>7</sup> Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone,"**

**<sup>8</sup> and "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.**

- Jesus is the cornerstone rejected by the builders in Psalm 118:22
- The stumbling Stone and a rock of offense of Isaiah 8:14
- The foundation stone of **Isaiah 28:16 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily.**

- The Supernatural Stone of Daniel 2 appearing to a heathen King (Nebuchadnezzar) in a dream
- And the Rock that provided water for Israel in the wilderness –
  - **1 Corinthians 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.**
- . . . to you who believe, *He is precious*
  - Is Jesus precious to you?
  - Not a recognized religious figure. But precious
  - Or is He reduced to just Sunday morning (accept of course on Super Bowl Sunday)? Or maybe Wednesday evening?

**1Pe 2:9-10 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;**

**<sup>10</sup> who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.**

- This is our identity! Can you identify with that?
- The things that used to be exclusive to the nation of Israel are now ours in a greater spiritual sense.
- Not because of any merit we earned – it is by the grace of God it is the gift of God!

What about the Jews?

- **Romans 11:22-36**