



IDENTITY

Who God Says We Are

As humans, we look in many places for a sense of identity - who were we each created to be? Often, the world and even our own insecurities deceive us about who we are. In this Bible study we will look at some of the lies we believe about our identity and what God's Word has to say about our true identity.

1 - YOU ARE NOT DEFINED BY YOUR PAST

Read

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”
- 2 Corinthians 5:17*

Further reading - Hebrews 8:12-13

Reflect/Discuss

- In what ways do you allow your past to define you?
- What do you think it means to be a “new creation” in Christ?

Consider

One of the lies that we believe about our identity is that we are defined by choices we have made in the past. One mistake or bad choice can replay over and over in our minds. The consequences of our sin can last for generations. This makes it seem like we can never escape our past. Jesus died not just to save us from our sins, but to make us completely new creations! Wherever Jesus went, He changed people. The sick became well, the thief became honest, and the corrupt became holy. He is doing that in hearts that are surrendered to Him today. He is able to empower us to exchange old behaviors for new.

The appetites, addictions, and struggles of our pasts do not have to define us. We can walk in new life with Jesus by choosing to surrender to Him daily. When we surrender to Him, He begins to change us from the inside out. We begin to think differently, talk differently, act differently, and respond differently. We become new creations.

Act

- Write down all the ways your past has affected you negatively. Pray through each one, asking God to help you shed off those identities.
- Write down some of the identities you know that you are called to as a follower of Christ. Find ways to live those out this week.

Go Deeper

[The God Who Gives New Hearts](#)

2 - YOU ARE NOT DEFINED BY WHAT YOU HAVE

Read

“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” - Hebrews 13:5

Further Reading - Luke 21:1-4

Reflect/Discuss

- In what ways does your financial status define you?
- Why do you think it can be so difficult for people to trust God in the area of money and possessions?

Consider

In this world, we are often tempted to let our identities be determined by what we have. Wealth and material possessions seem to be sources of security and status. More money and possessions seem to give us more independence and opportunities. In this verse, God instructs His people resist letting our material possessions determine our motivations and actions.

In Luke 21, Jesus teaches about a struggling widow who gave her very last bit of money as an offering to the Lord. She could have said that she was too poor to give. She chose not to let her financial status define her and gave us a perfect example of generosity and trust in God. When we trust that God is always with us and always for us, we see wealth and material possessions for what they are: tools. Our trust is in a good God and we are to be defined by boldly trusting Him.

Act

- What possessions do you own that are a distraction to you? Do certain things take a lot of care and attention? Put them away, donate them, or sell them.
- Think of your church or a nonprofit that you would like to support more generously. Rather than waiting until you have more, just start giving, even if it's only a dollar. A gift that is in proportion to what you have is still a generous gift even if a small one!

Go Deeper

[How to Achieve True Wealth](#)

3 - YOU ARE NOT DEFINED BY WHAT YOU DO

Read

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.”

- John 15:16

Further Reading - Ephesians 2:8-10

Reflect/Discuss

- Do the roles that you play in life, such as family or work, define you?
- Do you believe that you can improve your standing with God by excelling in these roles?

Consider

What takes up the most of your time? Parenting? A job? We often allow our roles in life to define us. Then if we lose a job, or feel like a failure as a parent, we question our very identity. God does not see us through the lens of what we do or accomplish. He sees us through the blood of Jesus that has washed away our sins and made us righteous through His sacrifice! He sees us as His children who have been empowered to do good works that He has prepared for us.

When we feel successful, we should not be full of pride, knowing that our achievements are possible because of God's grace. In the midst of our fiercest struggles, we are not overcome by shame because God extends mercy to us. Our identity is found in Christ. We will never be *defined* by achievements or excellence in the roles we play. Rather, our God-given identity *defines* who we are.

Act

- What things do you do solely because of the expectations of others?
- Ask God for wisdom as to which roles He has called you to and those that you can let go of.

Go Deeper

[Living a Life of Meaning](#)

4 - YOU ARE NOT DEFINED BY THE OPINIONS OF OTHERS

Read

“Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.” - Galatians 1:10

Further Reading - 1 Thessalonians 2:3-6

Reflect/Discuss

- How have you let other people’s expectations affect your choices?
- Can you recall a time when you did the right thing despite what others thought?

Consider

It can be difficult to stand for truth in a world where people are quick to reject those who do not agree with their worldview. God’s word is full of bold, controversial, and counter-cultural principles. In an effort to not offend anyone, we often compromise and ignore God’s Truth. In His letter to the Galatians, Paul warns the church that pleasing people is not how we serve Christ. We must stand firm in the truth of God’s Word.

It is very easy to let the voices of others define us. Whether those voices are negative or even supportive, the trouble arises when the opinions of others take precedence over what God says about us.

If we are constantly looking to others to tell us who we are, we will miss out on who our Creator says we are.

Act

- Examine some of the beliefs you hold about the world and society. Have your beliefs come from Scripture or have they been formed by human thinking and opinion?
- Identify something you know God is calling you to do, but you’re afraid or embarrassed to do because of what others might think. Take a step this week towards putting that calling into action.

Go Deeper

[What God Thinks of You](#)

5 - YOU ARE NOT DEFINED BY YOUR OPINION OF YOURSELF

Read

“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.” - 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Further reading - 2 Corinthians 12:6-10

Reflect/Discuss

- What weakness or fault do you struggle with that is preventing you from living the life God calls you to?
- Do you have a strength or skill that you are using for selfish gain, rather than in a way that honors God and serves others?

Consider

When God calls us to do something, we may take a quick inventory of our strengths and conclude we don't have what it takes to answer God's call. When God called Moses to deliver His people, Moses felt deficient in and of himself. He told the Lord that he could not go before Pharaoh because he was "slow of speech." But God had a plan to use Moses, even though he was *not* gifted in speaking, to rescue generations of people from slavery and display God's power through signs and miracles.

We are often tempted to define ourselves by our skills or accomplishments. We rely on our own strength instead of allowing God to work through us. When our identity is found in God and in His capability, we can be confident in who we are and be used by Him to do even greater things than we could ever imagine.

Act

- Think of something you feel you've been called to do, but hesitated because you've made excuses about your weaknesses. In God's strength, take steps towards that this week.
- Think of a characteristic you've wanted to have, but have given up because you've failed trying on your own. Ask God to make you more of that person, and this week record all the times you see yourself living out that virtue.

Go Deeper

- [God Gives Strength In The Broken Places](#)

God's Word is full of truth about who we are in Christ and shows us how God views and values us. We cannot be defined by the world or even by ourselves. Only our Creator can truly define us. When we believe the Truth of God's Word, we begin to discover who we truly are in Christ.

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