



Discussion Questions for the week of September 24

We seek to find our identity in everywhere else expect where our true identity lies. We look for identity in how we look, how we feel, what we do, what others say about us. All of that may be true, but is that what makes up our true identity? In this series we look at how scripture answers the question: Who Am I?

The end result of trying to create your own identity is broken relationships, bad decisions, guilt & shame. But there is a better way! Our true identity is that we are God's unique creation. Our true identity after placing our faith in what Jesus did in dying on the cross and rising from the dead is that we are forgiven and loved. And so the challenge is: Don't try to create your identity, appreciate your God given identity, Accept your redeemed identity.

ICE BREAKER:

If you could change the end of any Disney movie, which one would you alter and how would you end the movie?

DISCUSSION:

1. Share with the group some things that are true about you. For example, "I'm good at...", "I like to..."
2. Share with the group some aspects of yourself that you do not like and explain why. Then read Psalm 139:13-14. What do these verses teach us about ourselves? What is a good way for you to constantly remind yourself of the truth of these verses?
3. This Sunday, our speaker reminded us, "Your identity is found not in what you do but what Christ did for you." If we already have our true identity in Christ, why is it so appealing for us to try to find our identity elsewhere?
4. Back up in Psalm 139. Let's read verses 1-4. Have you ever felt so known by a friend or that you know a friend so well that you can guess what they will say to something? Maybe you have a friend that finishes your sentences. How does God compare to them in your life?
5. If God formed us and knows us then why is it that what other people think about us is so important to us?
6. Why is it so dangerous to find your identity in what you do or what other people say or think about you?
7. Read Luke 15:11-24. What lessons do you learn from the Prodigal son's life? What do you learn from the father's response?
8. What about the "older son" in verses 25-32 (now you can read those). What can we learn from his life?
9. Why do people use performance as a measurement of self worth or value to others and God? (Verse 29)
10. Read verse 31 again. How does God feel about the older son?
11. Now read verse 32 again. Does God love one more than the other? Regardless of which "son" you might be, are you loving like the Father?

APPLICATION:

12. What can you do to remind yourself to appreciate your God given identity and accept your redeemed identity?

13. Our speaker on Sunday reminded us of who we are with this list:

Beloved	A Child of God	Forgiven	Washed Clean	Free	Righteous	New	Set Apart
A Sweet Aroma	Never alone		Wonderfully Made	Whole in Christ			

All throughout scripture are statements of identity, statement that are true of who we are, for those who are in Jesus Christ. Below is a list of a few identity statements from Scripture. (Leaders, you may want to focus on one of these statements with your specific group, challenge them to live out this specific verse this week, or encourage them to print off the list and post it somewhere they will be reminded of what is true about them.)

What can you do to remind yourself that your identity is based in your relationship with God, not in how well you perform?

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| John 1:12 - I am God's Child | Eph 2:18 - I have direct access to God | Col 1:14 - I have been redeemed |
| John 15:15 - I am Christ's friend | Rom 5:1 - I have been justified | Col 1:14 - I have been forgiven of all of my sins |
| 1 Cor 6:17 - I am united with Christ | 1 Cor 6:20 - I have been bought with a price | Col 2:10 - I am complete in Christ |
| 1 Cor 12:27 - I am a member of Christ's body | Eph 1:1 - I am a saint | Rom 8:1 - I am free from condemnation |
| Eph 1:4 - I am holy and blameless | Eph 1:5 - I have been adopted as God's child | Rom 8:35 - I cannot be separated from the love of God |
| Eph 1:7 - I am redeemed | Eph 1:7 - I am forgiven | Phil 3:20 - I am a citizen of Heaven |
| | | Col 3:3 - I am hidden with Christ in God |
| | | Eph 1:4 - I have been chosen (God chose you) |
| | | Eph 2:10 - I am God's masterpiece |