



If you could be one animal for a week, what would you be and why?

Discussion Questions for the week of October 1st

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.

DISCUSSION:

1. Why do people use performance as a measurement of self worth or value to others and God?
2. Share with the group some "Christian activities" that you think are used to judge whether someone is being a good Christian or not.
3. When was the last time you felt like you were "killing it"? When is a time where you've maybe thought, 'I've got this' or 'I got my act together' or 'Things are going pretty well'.
Doesn't have to be spiritually "killing it", but school or maybe with relationships. If that comes up short expand to sports or performing. Essentially when and about what have they thought "I'm pretty good at this."
4. Let's all read Matthew 19:16-20 together.
5. What is happening here? (high level answers are ok)
6. What does the Rich Young Man (RYM) believe to be *true* about himself? (verse 20 if need help)
he has kept all commandments and believes he must lack something
7. What does the RYM believe to be *true* about Jesus?
8. Conversely, what must the RYM believe is NOT true about Jesus or about him?
Look at RYM's response in verse 18 and then verse 20. It's a "what next? I've done it all" sort of mindset.
9. Read verse 21. What does Jesus believe to be true about the man? Why?
Notice it reads if you would be perfect. Jesus believes him to be lacking.
10. Read verses 22-30. Notice the disciples have given up what to follow Jesus?
Everything
11. Is Jesus concerned about this man having no material possessions? What's the heart of RYM's issue?
12. Jesus invites RYM to bring nothing. In fact, He insists. RYM was defined by the wealth and things he'd amassed. If you're not defined by that of course selling your worldly goods would be a no brainer. What if you're defined by family name, other's perception, friend group? What do you cling to dearly that if it were stripped away you would not want to follow still?
13. What does Revelation 2:2-5 warn that can happen to Christians who are mostly concerned with doing the right things?
14. Why isn't it a good idea to base our identity in how well we perform as a Christian?
15. What is the difference between performance based acceptance and acceptance based performance?
Which one should we choose and why?
16. Read Matthew 5:16. Even though our identity is not based in performance, what does this verse teach us that we should be doing because we are Christians? What will be the result?

APPLICATION:

17. What would bringing your nothing to the table look like for you?
18. If you were living out what acceptance based performance looks like, what does a day in your life then look like? (*Cannot fail, right?*)

Identity statements in scripture (in last week's DQs too).

John 1:12 - I am God's Child

John 15:15 - I am Christ's friend

Rom 5:1 - I have been justified

1 Cor 6:17 - I am united with Christ

1 Cor 6:20 - I have been bought with a price

1 Cor 12:27 - I am a member of Christ

Eph 1:1 - I am a saint

Eph 1:4 - I am holy and blameless

Eph 1:5 - I have been adopted as God's child

Eph 1:7 - I am redeemed

Eph 1:7 - I am forgiven

Eph 2:18 - I have direct access to God

Col 1:14 - I have been redeemed

Col 1:14 - I have been forgiven of all

Col 2:10 - I am complete in Christ

Rom 8:1 - I am free from condemnation

Rom 8:35 - I cannot be separated from love

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

