

OUR IDENTITY THROUGH THE POWER OF GOD

JULY 10, 2016

INTRODUCTION

In the sermon on Sunday, Aaron talked about our identity. Specifically he spoke about the way we should identify ourselves through the Power of God. Often times, we identify ourselves based on past relationships, experiences, family heritage or a number of other factors. Let's look further into God's Word to help us determine how God has identified us....through His eyes.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If someone were to say to you, "Tell me about yourself," how would you respond? Ask each other in your group that very question and see what answers are given.
2. Many of the answers we give are based on "labels" that the world has put on us or that we have put on ourselves. Read the following passages and list what "label" God has given to you:

John 1:12

John 15:15

1 Corinthians 12:27

2 Corinthians 5:17-18

Colossians 1:13-14

Colossians 3:12

Ephesians 1:18

3. Read Matthew 16:23 and John 10:10. What are Satan's purposes in our lives? How does he try to accomplish his purposes in us?
4. God wants us to know how much we are loved by Him. Read Romans 12:2 and then 1 Peter 2:9. What are we called to do and remember about who we are? How can this knowledge help you in seeing yourself through God's eyes?

5. Read Romans 15:5-7. How do these verses fill out our identity? How can our thoughts about ourselves hinder or help our calling by God to do His will?

6. In Romans 8:16-17, Paul indicates two identities that we are given by the Holy Spirit. What are they? (Hint: adoption vs birth child) What is their significance for us?

APPLICATION

Read Ephesians 1:4-14 and meditate on its message. Knowing that God chose you before the creation of the world; knowing you were predestined to be adopted as his child through Jesus Christ; knowing you are redeemed and forgiven; knowing that you are God's inheritance; knowing all this was done so that you can glorify God, how does this change the way you identify yourself? If you have struggled with your identity or have not come to an understanding of who God made you to be, pray over this passage and ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to see yourself as God sees you.

SCRIPTURE

¹² Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation-but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if you live by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs-heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Romans 8:12-17