

# Identity (Re)Defined 1 - What does God say about me?

## Intro

In this series we are going to be talking about what we think of ourselves and how we find our identity. This is, and has always been, a crucial topic for middle and high school students. The reason that this is so important is because for the first time in your life, you are becoming your own person in your thought, interests, and beliefs, not because of your parents but because that's who you are.

That is not to say that your parents can't or won't have any influence on who you become during these years, in fact they will have a significant impact on you for better or worse. Additionally, you will be influenced by your friends, teachers, mentors, music, movies, and all forms of social media. Who you become and how you identify will be a combination of all of these things. Not surprisingly, God has a lot to say about who are you and what you can become and for this series we will consider the wisdom and advice we can learn from God as we all consider who I am and who you are becoming.

### Proverbs 12:15

*The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.*

### John 8:31-32

*31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

As we begin this this series I want you to consider the following questions and assign 2-3 adjectives to each. (Good, bad, happy, sad, honest, brave, trustworthy etc.):

1. What do you hope to become? (How do you want others to remember you?)
2. Who are you becoming today? (How would someone describe you if they watched your life over the last week? Month? Year?)
3. How do you think God describes who you are right now? (What do you think God thinks to himself when He thinks of you?)

We will revisit these questions as we walk through this series. As you will find, we should have questions one and two shaped and defined (or redefined) by the true answer to question three, which is not always the answer we think.

### Hebrews 11:1

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

*Faith = Believing the Bible is true regardless of my thoughts, feelings, or circumstances.*

# Without Christ

## Far From God

2 John 1:9

*Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God.*

Hebrews 3:12

*Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.*

- Without Christ you do not have access to God
- An unbelieving heart leads us away from God

John 15:5 (Nothing)

*I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

- Apart from Jesus we can do nothing, in fact we are of no good for we do not produce fruit

## No Hope

Matthew 7:23 (away from God)

*And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'*

John 14:6

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

John 8:24

*I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.*

- Being apart from God we cannot know Him or have a relationship with him
- We cannot come to God except through faith in Jesus
- Our sins leave us dead and dying

## Cursed by God

James 4:4 (Enemy of God)

*You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

- Those who are choose not to believe in God make themselves and enemy of God.

Revelation 20:10 (Tormented forever)

*And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

Revelation 21:8

*But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."*

- The devil is the primary enemy of God, he will be defeated and thrown into the Lake of Fire and Sulfur.
- God will defeat and imprison all his enemies in Hell where they are tortured forever.

# With Christ

## Close to God

Romans 15:7 (Welcomed)

*Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*

Ephesians 2:13 (Brought near)

*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

1 Thessalonians 1:4 (Chosen by God)

*For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you,*

- By faith in Christ we are welcomed, brought near, and chosen by God.
- Through Christ we are brought near to God to be in relationship with Him

John 15:15 (Friend)

*No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.*

John 1:12 (Child)

*But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,*

Romans 8:17 (Heir)

*and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.*

- Through Christ, instead of being God's enemy we are called His friend
- More than that He adopts us into His family as His own son's and daughter's
- Because we are truly His children we are heirs (recipients) of the all promises and blessings God can give us

## Changed

Romans 8:1-2 (Not condemned, Free)

*1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.*

- Because of Jesus we are no longer condemned by our sin, instead we have been set free from death itself

Galatians 5:1 (Free from sin)

*For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.*

- We are changed, no longer are we slaves to sin, we are free because of Christ.
- He freed us so we can choose freedom from sin, no it to continue it it.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (Made new)

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

- In Christ we are completely new, nothing of the old sinful self remains.

## Set apart/God's dwelling place

Colossians 2:10 (Filled with Him)

*and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.*

- We are filled with the Spirit of Christ, He lives within us, He is always near and never far away.

1 Corinthians 3:16 (God's temple/dwelling place)

*Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?*

1 Corinthians 6:17 (One with God)

*But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.*

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (Belong to God)

*Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 you were bought at a price.*

- God lives within us by the Holy Spirit. He empowers to live a Holy life
- By and through the Holy Spirit we are one with God, he is never far and always near to those who believe in Him
- We do not belong to ourselves, we belong to God because He lives within us, He will not cast us aside
- God has paid a high price to set us, therefore we have great value to Him.

## Blessed by God

Ephesians 3:3-4 (Blessed)

*3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.*

- Because of our faith in Jesus, God blesses us with every kind spiritual blessing.

Ephesians 2:10 (Workmanship, created for good works)

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

- "Workmanship" is translated from the Greek word "poema" its root is where we get our word "poem"
  - This means that God has taken great care to create, develop, and mature us into something beautiful, similar to how a poet will use words to construct his work.

Philippians 3:20 (Citizen of Heaven)

*But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,*

Colossians 3:3-4 (Future hope)

*3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

- Through Jesus we are citizens of heaven, we have hope for eternal life with Him there.

Philippians 4:7 (Peace beyond understanding)

*And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:19 (Every need supplied)

*And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

- He is our peace - Though we face trials and heartache now, He guards our hearts and minds.
- He supplies all we need to live a life that is fulfilling and honoring to God. We do not need to rely ourselves, we only need to rely on Him.

# Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you the most about tonight's lesson? Why was it important to you?
- What is it important to believe that the Bible is true regardless of your thoughts, feelings, or circumstances? How could those things cloud our understanding of the Bible?
- Why does it take faith to Believe the Bible is true?
- How do you want people to remember you?
- If someone watched every part of your life over the last week/month/year, even the secret parts, and could hear your thoughts, what would they about you?
- How do you think God describes who you are right now? What do you think God thinks to himself when He thinks of you?
- How would, could, or should the last question affect the previous two questions?
- What is different about the way you think God thinks about you versus what the Bible says God thinks about you?
- Why is important to rely on what the Bible says is true instead what we think or feel is true?