

Sermon Title: Gospel Community

Sermon Series: Gospel Directed Community

Scripture: Ephesians 4:22-24/Ephesians 2:1-10

Speaker: Pastor Mike Barnhart



Ephesians 1-3 – IDENTITY

Ephesians 4 – BEHAVIOR

Ephesians 4:17–22 ESV

17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. 20 But that is not the way you learned Christ!— 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,

Ephesians 2:1–3 ESV

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

IDENTITY – Apart from Christ you are spiritually dead

Ephesians 2:4–7 ESV

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

IDENTITY – In Christ you are alive, raised up with Him, seated with Him.

“Self-Expressionism” = identity is driven by how one thinks about himself.

“Old Self” = Spiritually Dead

“New Self” = Spiritually Alive

Your identity is rooted in your relationship to God.

Ephesians 4:17–22 ESV

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in them, due to their hardness of heart. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. 20 But that is not the way you learned Christ! — 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,

IDENTITY — Spiritually Dead vs. Spiritually Alive

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD — Apart from Christ vs. In Christ

IDENTITY FORMATION — Circumstances, race, ethnicity, sexuality, failures & successes vs. The Gospel

FEELINGS — Fear, insecurity, unsafe, shame, condemnation, rejection vs. Comfort, safety, security, joy, freedom, significance

ACTIONS — Skepticism, manipulation, lying, gossip, blame, slander, rage, retreat vs. Humility, honesty, grace, trust, forgiveness, repentance, patience, peace.

Because your identity is rooted in your relationship with God, put on the

_____.

1 John 4:18 ESV

18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

In Christ, there is NO FEAR

Romans 8:1–2 ESV

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.

2 Primary forms of Guilt:

1. Condemnation - the punishment for sin before Christ; an attack from the enemy after Christ.
2. Conviction - the recognition of sin, as guided by the Holy Spirit.

In Christ, there is NO CONDEMNATION

Romans 8:1–2 ESV

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.

Ephesians 1:13–14 ESV

13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

In Christ, there is NO INSECURITY

Romans 10:11 ESV

11 For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.”

In Christ, there is NO SHAME

Romans 5:8 ESV

8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

GRACE = unconditional love

Will you trust Christ today?

Discussion Questions:

1. Pray

2. How did you view your identity before Christ?

3. Read Ephesians 4:17-24. What do these verses tell us about our attitudes and ways of living before Christ (the “old self”)?

Ephesians 4:17-24 ESV 17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. 20 But that is not the way you learned Christ!— 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

4. What are some aspects of your life that attempt to inform/shape your identity?

5. Read Ephesians 2:1-9. What do these verses tell us about our identity?

Ephesians 2:1-9 ESV 2 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of

disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

6. What is the Gospel?

7. What does Ephesians 4:17-24 tell us about the “new self”?

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8. How might our identity affect our inner feelings?

9. How might our inner feelings influence our actions, specifically in relationship with others?

10. How does the Gospel direct our relationships?

11. Is there a situation or relationship for which you would like prayer?

12. Pray together.