

Sermon Title: Identity

Sermon Series: Philippians: Unbreakable Joy

Scripture: Philippians 1:1-2

Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



Unbreakable Joy

Who are We? Who is _____? What does that mean for our _____?

1. Who Are We? My _____

Philippians 1:1 ESV

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

Acts 9:1-2 ESV

But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Acts 9:3-5 ESV

3 Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. 4 And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" 5 And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

Acts 9:15b-16 ESV

“Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”

Philippians 1:1 ESV

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:



Philippians 1:1 ESV

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

“Saints are persons in heaven (officially canonized or not), who lived heroically virtuous lives, offered their life for others, or were martyred for the faith, and who are worthy of imitation.”

—Catholic Definition – United States Conference of Catholic - Bishops

1. Who are We? We are _____

2. Who is God? Our Savior Jesus Christ

Philippians 1:1 ESV

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

2 Timothy 1:8b-9 ESV

...God, 9 who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began...

Colossians 3:3-4 ESV

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.

We are saints because our identity is _____ Christ our _____

Philippians 3:12 ESV

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

OUR IDENTITY COMES FROM WHO _____ SAYS WE ARE, NOT WHO
_____ SAY _____ AM

3. What does this mean for our lives? We have _____ and _____.

Philippians 1:2 ESV

2 Grace to you and peace from **God our Father** and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalms 103:13 ESV

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

Ephesians 1:3 ESV

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,

1 John 3:1a ESV

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God...

Hebrews 12:7, 11 ESV

7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Romans 12:19 ESV

19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

Psalm 68:5 ESV

Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

Who are We? Who is God? What does that mean for our lives?

We are _____ with a _____ who gives us grace and peace.

Questions:

Getting to know you questions:

1. If someone asked you “Who are you?” how would you answer?

2. Share a time when something someone said about you influenced a choice you made, either good or bad.

3. Why do you think most people struggle with what others think about them?

Into the Bible Questions:

1. Read Philippians 1:1-2, Romans 12:1-2

Philippians 1:1-2 ESV – Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

Romans 12:1-2 ESV – I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- a. What was something from the passage or sermon that surprised you, helped you, confused you, or bothered you?

- b. When thinking of your identity, what are the voices and opinions that influence you most?

- c. Read Romans 12:1-2. How much or what parts of your identity come from copying the world around you?

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2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

d. What does this passage tell us about God? People? Living to please God?

e. How would you describe “identity in Christ” to someone?

Extra Reading 1 John 3:1-10

John 3:1-10 ESV – Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” 3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

9 Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” 10 Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?”

a. What does this passage have to say about our identity and who informs it?

b. In this passage, What are some of the things that make up our new identity in Christ?

c. Can you think of any other scriptures that speak to who we are in Christ?

d. Jot down any insights, questions, or key observations.

Application Questions

1. When you battle sin in your life, what do you normally do to defeat it? How would viewing yourself as a saint, help?