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**Ephesians 1:15-16**  
**Title: What should they see?**  
**2/18/24**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How do you feel about your identity from v.3-14? Are there parts that you have not fully embraced yet?
  2. How can we navigate between caring about our reputation and becoming a people pleaser?
  3. When do you think people are more or less tempted towards hypocrisy?
  4. Was there a time you really saw someone's faith or love demonstrated? How did it impact you?
  5. What can you do to make sure your who equals your do?
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**Teaching Notes:**

- God has chosen me, redeemed me and sealed me with His Spirit.
- I have believed, and I am accepted and adopted as part of His family.
- He loves and lavishes His grace on me in the forgiveness of all my trespasses and sin.
- I have hoped in Him and my future is guaranteed by His promise and His presence to fulfill His purpose.
- It is my purpose to bring unity and glory and pleasure to Christ my King.

**...The truest thing about us is what God says about us.**

**But today we will look at another dynamic of identity.**  
**Paul will tell them what he has HEARD about them.**

There is who God says we are in Him...  
...But then there is also how others see us in life...

**Title: What should they see?**

Does **who** God says you are...  
...match with what people see you **do**?

**Big Idea:**  
**WHO God says we are spiritually should match what**  
**people see us DO in reality.**  
...**Who should equal Do...**

**Ephesians 1:15** Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, **16** do not cease to give thanks for you,  
**Given our WHO is chosen & loved & adopted & accepted...**  
**...in Christ...**

...given that we have believed & are called to bring...  
...unity & glory & pleasure to Christ...  
...faith in God and love for the saints is what we should DO.

**So what should people see us doing?**

**1. We are dependent on God.**

Don't hide what you believe.  
Don't censor what you say.  
Don't adjust how you live.  
Let people see that you trust God.

**To demonstrate your faith, don't hide your need or struggle...  
...show your dependence on Him.**

**What is the other thing Paul heard about them?  
...Their love for all the saints.**

**What should people see us doing?**

**2. We love unconditionally.**

John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Faith in God is the starting point for being able to love like Jesus.

**BUT-What happens when reality doesn't match our identity?**

What happens when our who in Christ...  
...doesn't match our do in life?  
...two roads: hypocrisy or humility.

**It is not hypocrisy to be imperfect.**

We are not hypocrites because we don't perfectly act like Jesus.

**Hypocrisy is about acting what is not actual.**

**So what should people see us doing?**

**3. We practice and make progress.**

**Practice and progress takes humility.**

**Hypocrites are a barrier to real faith.**  
You can't follow them without getting lost.

**Real disciples are not perfect...**

...but they practice and make progress and you can follow them.

People act like they serve God but really just serve themselves...  
**...and often take down anyone in their way.**

**We are not meant to be the critic in the stands...**  
**...we are meant to be in the game.**  
...practicing and making progress.

**To criticize and complain is to discount your faith in God...**  
**...and your love for the saints.**

**When we trust God and love people, word gets around**

**It is true evidence of the kingdom of God within us to actually trust God and love people.**

And for Paul, he couldn't stop giving thanks to God for them.

**So what should people see us doing?**  
**4. We are thankful.**

Imagine what it would be like if we actually trusted God and loved all the saints and just focused on being thankful for all God was doing!