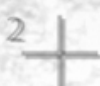




FOR BY THE GRACE  
 GIVEN TO ME, I TELL  
 EVERYONE AMONG YOU  
 NOT TO THINK OF  
 YOURSELVES MORE HIGHLY



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# IDENTITY

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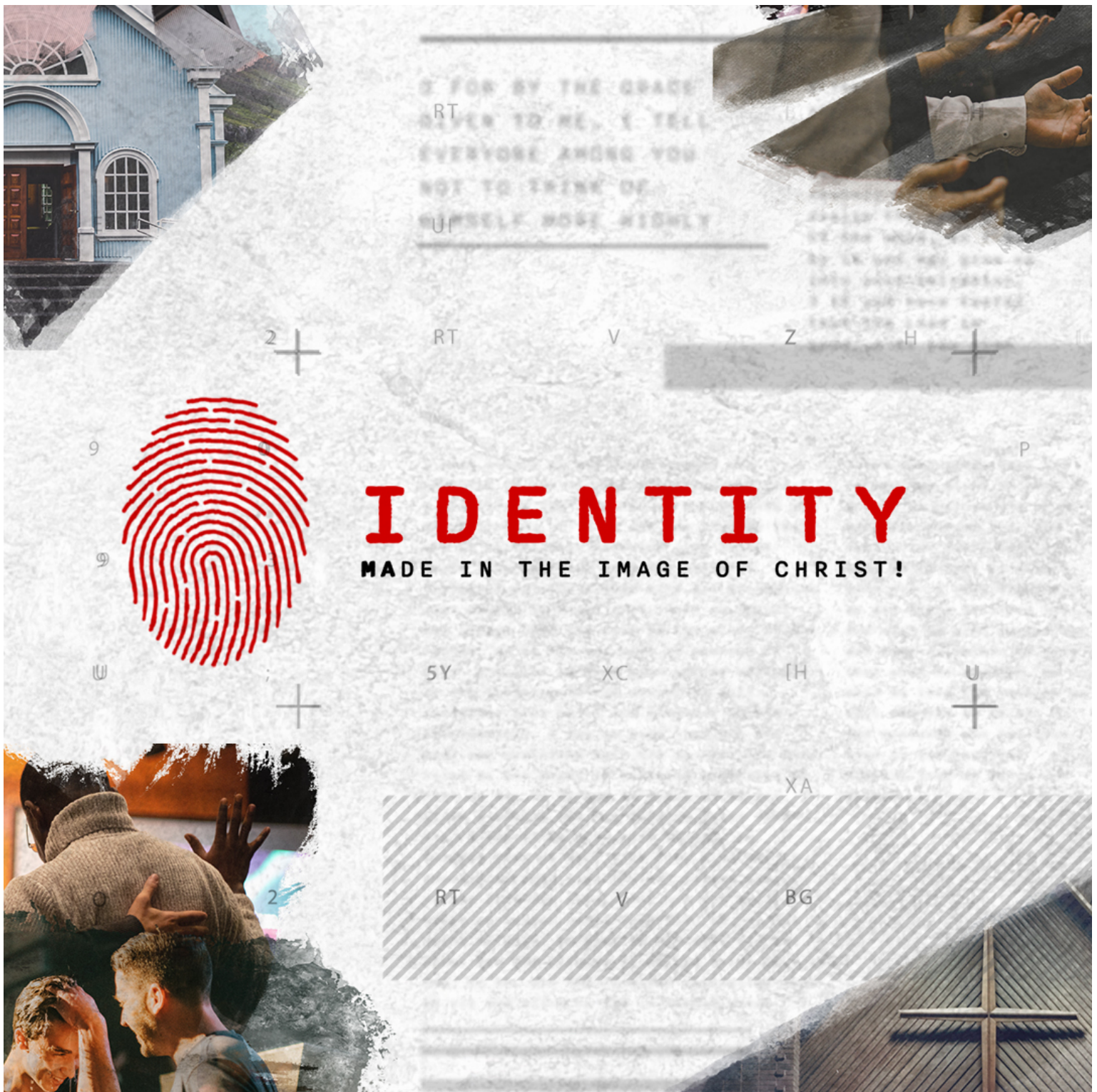
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SESSIONS 4-6







## SESSIONS 4

### READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

### WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

### DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.



# IDENTITY

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## BIG IDEA

The main question we should be answering is How are Christians to function together? There is a great challenge that must be considered when we think about the local church. We have so many differences from age to ethnicity to culture to upbringing. We come from different states and maybe even different countries. Not only these, we have one more thing that adds to our distinctions; the differing spiritual gifts that God has gifted us with. All of these different gifts and we are to come together with our different backgrounds into this church and represent Christ as his people.

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## WATCH

What jumped out at you from the video?

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## READ

As a group, read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. What are the similarities between our church and Paul's church?

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Like us, Paul had a bunch of Christians in Corinth who came from all of these different backgrounds, nationalities, and upbringings and differing spiritual gifts that God had gifted them with.

What is the first point that Paul makes in this passage?

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## OPENING

In session 3 we looked at what it means to be a Servant of God and now Pastor David continues as we look at what it means to become members of one body. As Pastor David guided us through what it means to become members of one body in Romans chapter 12 , Paul's letter to the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians chapter 12 is also a great place to see God's plan for His body.

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What jumped out at you from the message this week? What led you to really think or even better, to change your actions?

The first point Paul makes is that we are to be ONE. There are many parts to the human body



# IDENTITY

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but it is still one human body. It is the same with Christ.

**Why does Paul say that we are united?**

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Paul says we are united because we are all baptized in one Spirit and all drink of one Spirit.

**What is Paul referring to when he says that we are baptized and drink of one Spirit?**

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Paul is referring to our conversion that every believer experiences. Paul doesn't say that only "some" are baptized in one Spirit. All are baptized in one Spirit and all drink of the one Spirit.

**As a group, read Acts 2:38-39. How does Peter agree with Paul In this passage?**

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Notice the two things that are received when we repent and are baptized. Peter says that our sins are forgiven and we receive the gift of the Holy

Spirit which was promised by the prophets and by Jesus.

**As a group, read 1 Corinthians 12:14-20. What is the second thing that Paul points out in this passage?**

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The second thing we see is diversity in the body. Though we are joined as various parts in one body of Christ does not mean that we are not different. It does not mean that there is not diversity within the body.

**What is the purpose of diversity in the church?**

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The local church is intended to have a wide diversity not just for diversity's sake but because we want to do a variety of works for the Lord. That means that we must find out what the Lord is doing and join Him there! We need to find our role, find our work and be a part of God's sovereign mission here in Valdosta and around the world.



# IDENTITY

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**As a group, read 1 Corinthians 12:21-27. What is the third thing that believers should see in this passage?**

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The third thing that members of one body should see is dependency in the body. V21 tells us that no one can say that they have no need of another. There is no person here that is useless in their work before the Lord, unless they are doing no work at all.

**What is the Pareto principle?**

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Often times only 20% of the body of Christ are accomplishing 80% of the work and this is a problem! It means that people are not using their God given talents and they're missing out on the God giving blessings that come from exercising their gifts.

**What else is Paul describing in this passage?**

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Paul is describing the need for the local church. We live in a time where people do not see the need for the local church.

**What makes the local church invaluable?**

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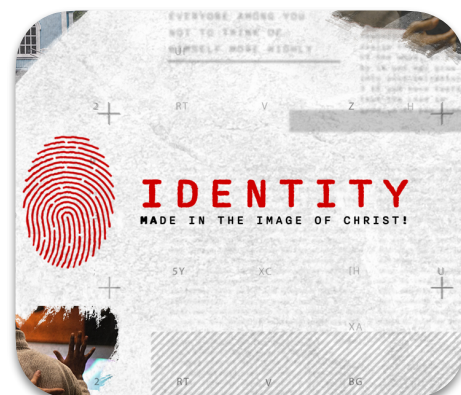
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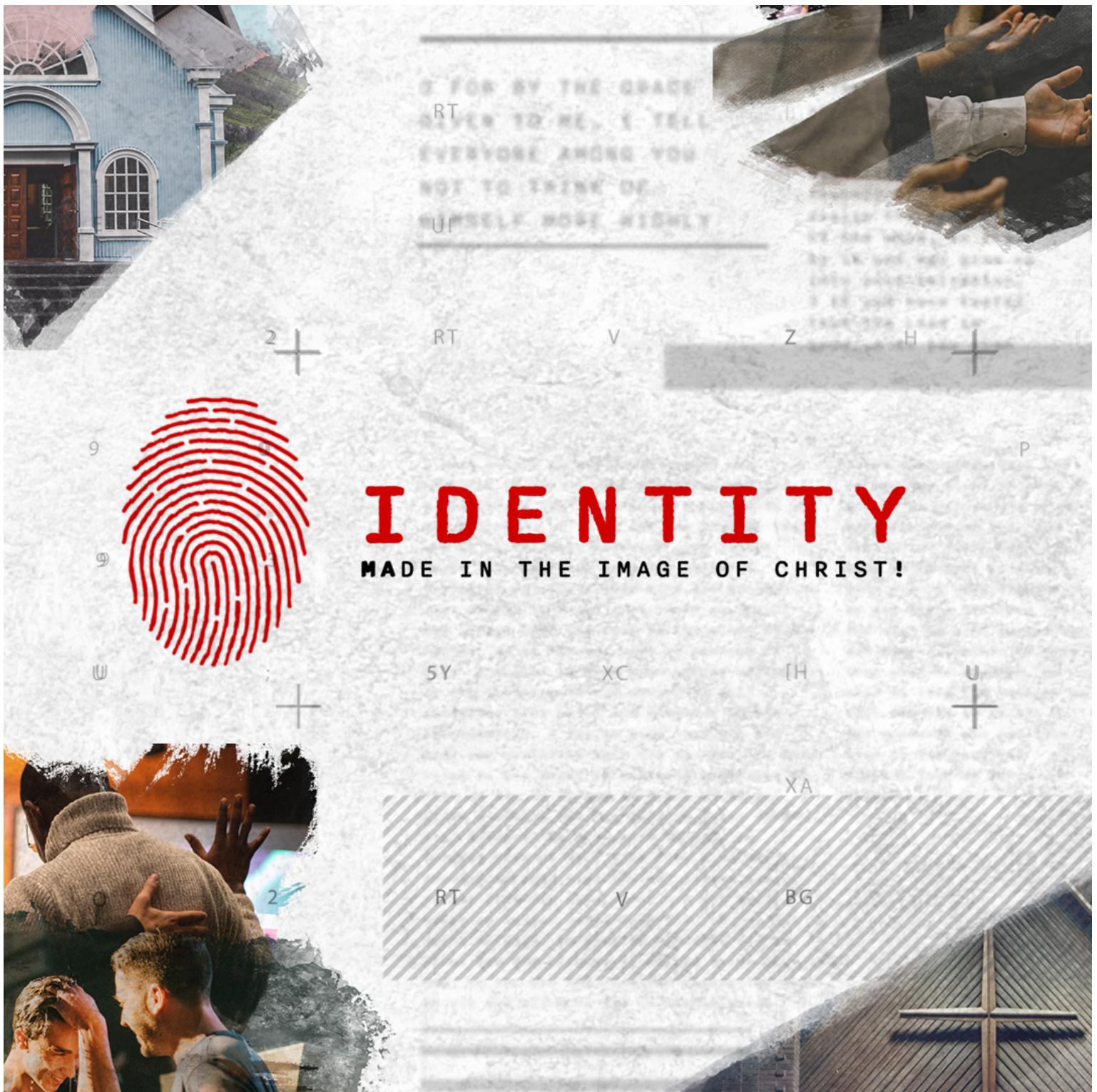
If we operate as we are supposed to, like a human body, each part working together in the kingdom of God for teaching, for encouragement, for correction, and for help, THAT is what makes the local church invaluable.

## LET'S PRAY

**Consider the following questions as you pray together as a LifeGroup.**

- Are you striving for unity in this body of believers?
- Are you acknowledging, celebrating and committing to the diversity in this body?
- Are you depending on other believers and being dependable for them?





## SESSIONS 5

### READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

### WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

### DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.



# IDENTITY

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## BIG IDEA

In Ephesians 2:11-22 the apostle Paul teaches us about our new position corporately. We have been brought into salvation (2:1-10). But we are not left alone. The scriptures never speak of having a personal relationship with Christ, as if all that matters is you and God. This conveys the false idea that you can just keep to yourself and be good with God. We have been brought into salvation to be UNITED with other believers. The scriptures regularly speak of the corporate relationship that we have in Christ

## OPENING

In session 4 we looked at what it means to be members of one body and now Pastor David continues as we look at what it means to be the Temple of God . As Pastor David guided us through 1 Corinthians chapter 3, it occurred to me that Paul’s letter to the Ephesians was also a great place to see what it means to be the temple of God.

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What jumped out at you from the message this week? What led you to really think or even better, to change your actions?

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## WATCH

What jumped out at you from the video?

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## READ

As a group, read Ephesians 2:11-12. In order to appreciate what we have, what must we first remember when we were without Christ?

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Paul begins with the call to remembrance. We are reminded here, that there are many things we didn't have before Christ. These disadvantages are to be remembered so they can fully appreciate the many spiritual blessings of salvation

What is the first disadvantage we had before Christ?

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Before Christ there was no hope for a Savior to save us. There was no basis for us to even look for a Messiah.





# IDENTITY

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**What is the second disadvantage we had before Christ?**

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Before Christ we were excluded from the citizenship of Israel. The special privileges of God came to Israel, not to the Gentiles.

**What is the third disadvantage we had before Christ?**

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Before Christ, without access to the covenants and promises, there was no hope to live under. The Gentiles were outside the sphere of God’s people and covenant and they did not share in the hope of salvation.

**What did all of these disadvantages mean for us as gentiles?**

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All of this paints a very dark picture of what it was to be a gentile but things didn’t stay that way!

**As a group, read Ephesians 2:13-16. In order to appreciate what we have, what is second thing we must remember when we were without Christ?**

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We must also understand what God did in Christ! The first three verses of chapter 2 declared our sinfulness and our expectation of wrath. But God intervened. Such glorious words!

**What does it mean to be ‘in Christ Jesus?’**

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You were separated, without hope, and without God. “But now in Christ Jesus” all of that has changed. In Christ Jesus a dramatic change has occurred. Now you have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

**What does Paul mean by ‘one body’ in v16?**

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Paul has been clear that there are not two groups but one. Any doctrine that teaches otherwise, suggesting one group has a greater status or privilege, is completely false! The one body



# IDENTITY

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receives equal access and equal privilege to the Father.

**As a group, read Ephesians 2:19-22. In order to appreciate what we have, what is the third thing we must remember when we were without Christ?**

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We must also see who we are in Christ! There are three images that are used in this passage to describe who we are through the blood of Jesus.

**What is the first image in Christ?**

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The first image is that we are fellow citizens. Now we are no longer strangers. We are not outsiders anymore. The idea is that we were foreigners without any rights.

**What is the second image in Christ?**

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We are members of the household of God. You are full family members with God as your Father. There is no greater household to belong to in life.

**What is the third image in Christ?**

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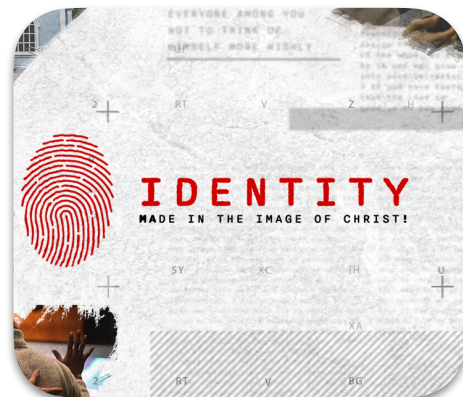
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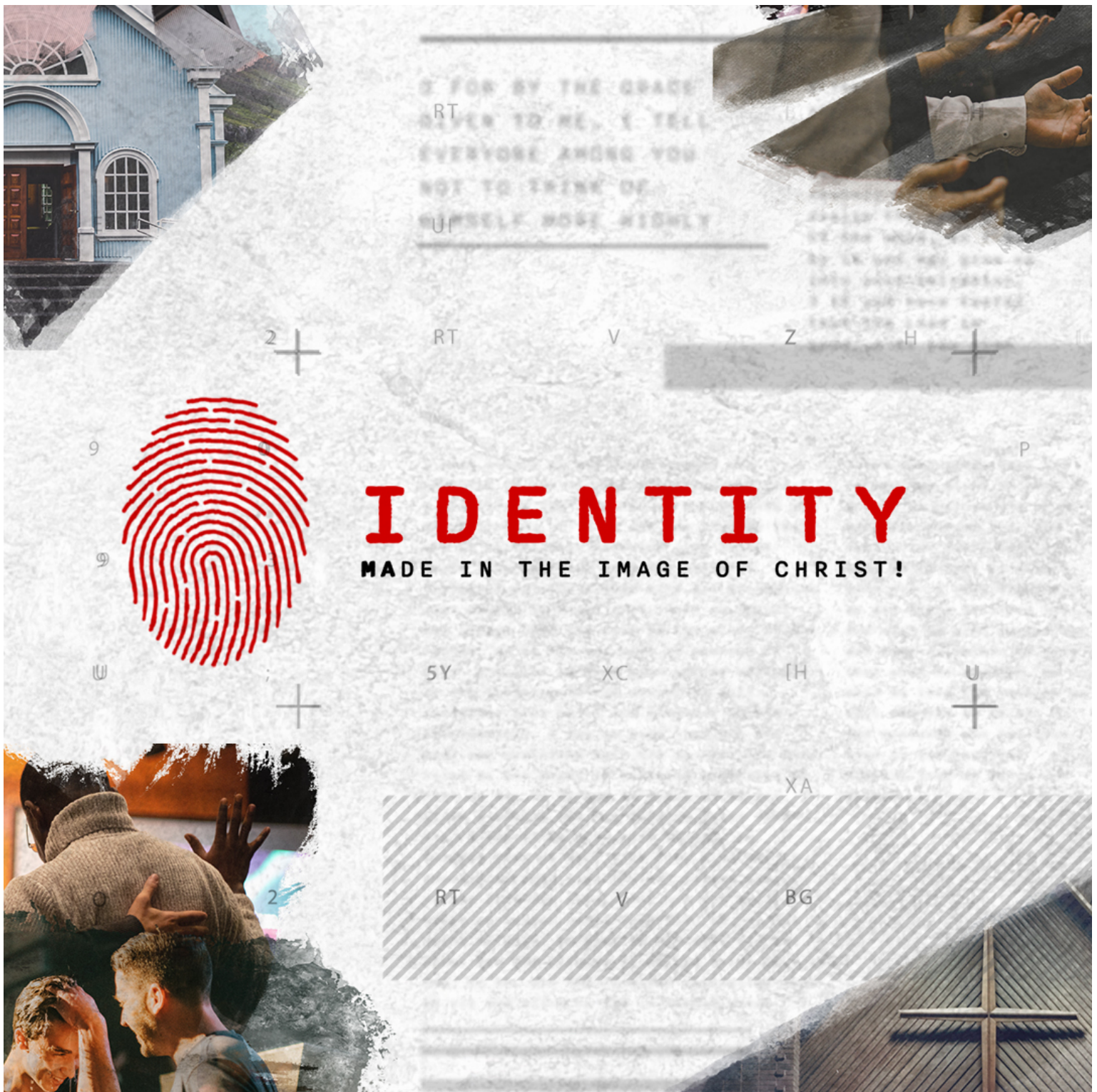
We belong to a holy temple. In those days it was understood that the temple was the place where the presence of God dwelled. Verse 22 makes the point explicitly clear. We are built together into the dwelling place for God; the Temple of God.

## LET'S PRAY

**Consider the following questions as you pray together as a LifeGroup.**

- Do you remember who you were before Christ?
- Do you really understand and appreciate what God has done for you in Christ?
- Do you see who you are in Christ?





## SESSIONS 6

### READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

### WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

### DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.



# IDENTITY

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## BIG IDEA

We have been born into two great things by God's great mercy: 1. a living hope and 2. into an eternal inheritance. In hard times we have a living hope. We live in a world that is often seems hopeless. The Christian, however, has hope that is alive and of immense value. We have something to set our eyes upon when life becomes full of suffering and difficulty.

## OPENING

In session 5 we looked at what it means to be the temple of God and as Pastor David finishes this series, we look at one of the most exciting aspects of our identity in Christ; what it means to be citizens of Heaven! As Pastor David concluded this series on identity with our final identity as citizens of heaven, 1 Peter chapter 1 came to my mind and the eager expectation that Peter had about this special position!

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What jumped out at you from the message this week? What led you to really think or even better, to change your actions?

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## WATCH

What jumped out at you from the video?

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## READ

As a group, read 1 Peter 1:3-8. What does a new birth mean?

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The idea of a birth has a number of implications. "Born again" tells us that we are a new person, belonging to a new family, and having new relationships. We get a new start in life.

How is this new life achieved?

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This new birth has been achieved through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

What does this new life do for us?

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# IDENTITY

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It gives us a hope that is alive and of immense value. We have something to set our eyes upon when life becomes full of suffering and difficulty. We have a hope that is not based on the futile things of this world.

**What is one big part of the Living Hope that God has for us?**

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Part of this living hope is the inheritance that is promised for us. This is an inheritance that does not perish, cannot spoil, cannot be defiled, and cannot fade. It is an inheritance untouched by death, unstained by evil, and unimpaired by time.

**Why is this inheritance is so great?**

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We have a great inheritance because it is not like all other physical inheritances. Our inheritance has an eternal nature so it cannot be taken away. It cannot fade away. It is not like houses and cars that fade, break, and ruin. This inheritance is permanent and eternal

**Why do we greatly rejoice in this passage?**

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No one can strip away your salvation. No one can rob you of the hope you have in our Lord Jesus and the salvation we are receiving. This is why we greatly rejoice.

**What does Peter mean by suffering for a short time?**

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Peter is saying that our lives, in view of the eternal inheritance and living hope we have, our suffering for only a little while. Even a life full of suffering is only a little while in view of our eternal inheritance.

**Is Peter ignoring the suffering of the saints?**

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Peter is not ignoring the fact that they are suffering. Peter is not saying to just think happy thoughts and everything will go away. Peter wants them to be able to endure these various trial and maintain their hope.



# IDENTITY

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**Peter says that our faith is more precious than...**

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Even though we suffer trials there is hope. Our tested faith is more valuable than gold.

**What makes our faith valuable?**

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Faith is not a valuable faith until it has been tested. Gold is not any good until the impurities are heated and removed from the metal. Faith must be refined. Faith must go through the fire.

**Faith must be...**

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Faith **MUST** be tested. Faith must endure tough choices, difficult times, and suffering. We want to have faith without suffering. But Peter points out that this is not possible.

**What is the result of tested faith?**

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our tested faith results in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. When all is said and done, our suffering brings praise, glory, and honor to Jesus through our endurance

**When will we be declared good and faithful servants?**

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We will be declared good and faithful servants because our faith has been tested and proven to be valuable.

## LET'S PRAY

**Consider the following questions as you pray together as a LifeGroup.**

- Are you trusting in the inheritance that is promised to you when you received new life in Christ?
- Are you rejoicing, even in the midst of suffering?
- Do you continue to love God and trust Him even as we endure trials?

