



Message Notes & Life Group Study Guide
October 14-15, 2017
Grace Alone: Identity – What Defines You?
Dr. Kurt Bjorklund

MESSAGE NOTES

Galatians 3:26-4:7

Two Life Changing Realities

1. A New Identity Galatians 3:26-28; 4:4-7

children of God

baptized into Christ

clothed yourselves with Christ

There is neither....

Adoption

Calls out, "Abba, Father"

2. A Promised Inheritance Galatians 3:29; 4:1-3, 7

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STUDY GUIDE

Reference:

Open in prayer and read Galatians 3:26-4:7.

Tim Keller book: *Galatians for You*, Pages 89-102

Review:

What was one thing from this week's message, or scripture reference, that stood out to you?

Reflect:

1. What are the forms of identity our culture tends to embrace or strive for?

2. Why do you think Paul uses the language of adoption rather than of natural birth when he talks about us becoming God's children?

3. It has been said that, "we're all children of God." Yet Galatians 3:26 specifies that those who are "in Christ" are children of God "through faith." Which do you think is true? Are we all children of God or is someone a child of God through faith in Christ? (See also Romans 8:14 and 1 John 3:1-3)

4. Author David Lomas writes, "To receive our true identity from Jesus, we must first let go of the false identities we hold." What false things tend to give you identity?

5. Paul lists three major categories in which we may attempt to find our identity - heritage (Jew/Gentile), status (slave/free), and gender roles (male/female). How does being in Christ supersede those things?

6. Imagine what it would mean for a slave to suddenly have his master adopt him into the family. How would his relationship toward his master change?

Respond/Reinforce:

Keep your eyes open this week for the barriers that divide us (e.g. social, race, gender, etc.), whether that's in your family, at work, with friends, or even online. Ask God how He can use you to be an influence in these areas for His redemptive purposes.

Next Week's Reading:

Scripture: Galatians 4:8-20

Tim Keller book: *Galatians for You*, Pages 103-115