



Week 3- “An Insecure Identity”

In this series we are asking the questions: Why do we not change sometimes? Why as Christians do we have a hard time growing and bearing the fruit that comes from the Gospel? We are discovering that all of us have weeds and thorns that get stuck in our hearts that are choking out the seed of the Gospel and the life and fruit in it. In this week’s message, we dive into a letter Paul wrote to the Ephesians and discover one of the primary reasons weeds get stuck in our hearts.

Read Ephesians 1:1-14

1. How would you answer the question: Who do I fundamentally believe I am?
2. Why is it important to ask and answer this question?
3. How does the answer to this question give you insight into what defines you?

Read Ephesians 1:1-11

4. According to this passage what statements reveal who Christ says you are?

Christianity teaches that we are more sinful than we ever dared believe, we are more loved than we ever dared hope, and in Christ we are more whole than we ever dare imagine.

5. How can what you believe about yourself reveal if you believe this to be true or not?

Read Ephesian 1:7

6. What does it practically mean to allow Christ to redeem the thorns and weeds in your heart?

7. Why is it important to ponder if you can see God's grace in your life and the identity you have in him?

In the message Justin invited us to ask ourselves questions that Rob Reimer asks in his book Soul Care:

- **What were things your parents said to you regularly?**
- **What family slogans do you remember, either spoken or unspoken?**
- **What were the shaping experiences of your life?**
- **What vows have you made?**
- **What are things you catch yourself saying about yourself?**
- **When do you find yourself blaming others?**
- **When do you find yourself proving your worth?**
- **Where do you find yourself struggling to believe the Gospel?**

8. Are you willing to ask yourself these questions and allow His Spirit to remove the thorns that are defining you? How can this group help you?

One of the reasons we struggle to find our identity in Christ is because we have thorns and weeds stuck in our hearts distorting our view of ourselves and who we are in Him. In His grace and mercy, if we can discover the thorns stuck in our hearts and if we invite the Spirit in to remove these thorns we can be set free. The Gospel allows us to walk in our identity of Sons and Daughters through the redemption of Christ's blood shed on the cross.