

# FORWARD TO FREEDOM

## THE SEARCH FOR IDENTITY & MEANING – PART 2

### REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK

- ▶ Who am I? What's my true identity? Where do I find it?

Principle #1: It is not what you do that determines who you are, but rather who you are that determines what you do. (ROOTS DETERMINE FRUITS)

Build your life & identity & behavior upon the Character of God & your Identity in Christ

- ▶ Created Fully Alive - Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7
- ▶ Effects of the Fall – Spiritual Death & Eventual Physical Death
  - Our mind, emotions & will have all been severely damaged by sin
  - Result: We feel Rejection, Guilt, Shame, Weakness & Helplessness
  - Our behavioral patterns to try & meet these problems lead to BONDAGE!

LAST ADAM (JESUS CHRIST) - 1 Corinthians 15:45

- ▶ John 1:4; 5:30a; 6:57a; 8:42b; 14:10b; 17:7
- ▶ Jesus showed us the essence of true living: Life = \_\_\_\_\_

### LIFE RECOVERED IN CHRIST

- ▶ John 10:10; Philippians 1:21; 1 John 5:11-12; John 6:48; 11:25; 14:6; 15:5
- ▶ The key concept of the entire New Testament is one simple phrase:  
\_\_\_\_\_

### LIFE DETERMINES IDENTITY

Principle #2: Being a Christian is not just \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ but rather \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

- ▶ 1 Peter 2:9,10; 1 John 3:1,2; Ephesians 2:10
- ▶ 2 Corinthians 5:17 - *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

Principle #3: No person can \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ in a way that is \_\_\_\_\_  
with how they \_\_\_\_\_ themselves.

Principle #4: It's what you \_\_\_\_\_ that is going to  
\_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_.

WHO AM I? – AFFIRMATION OF OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST (See Available Handout)

CALL TO FIRST-TIME FAITH (John 1:11-12)

CALL TO CLEAR IDENTITY (1 John 3:1-2)

## Prayer

Pray a prayer of gratitude for the individuals in your group and ask the Lord to guide your time together.

## My Story

Answer one of the following:

- What's your favorite compliment to receive? Why do you think that compliment means so much to you?
- Who in your life helped you develop a positive identity? How can we as adults help the children in our lives develop a positive identity and worth?

## Digging Deep

- 1) What does it mean to live a life "in Christ?" How would you explain this to a non-believer?
- 2) **Read 1 Corinthians 15:45-49.** How does this passage contrast the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam (Adam & Jesus)? How does this explain our own struggles in the flesh vs. living "in Christ?"
- 3) Pastor Scott shared multiple verses about who believers are in Christ. Have a different person read each of the following and discuss some of the highlights. Which one stands out to you most?
  - John 1:12
  - Romans 8:17
  - 1 Corinthians 12:27
  - Ephesians 4:22-24

## Digging Deeper

- 4) "Being a Christian is not just getting something, but rather becoming someone." Do you believe this to be true? What do the following verses reveal about the "someone" we become when we choose to make Jesus our Lord and Savior?
  - 1 Peter 2:9-10
  - 1 John 3:1-2
  - Ephesians 2:10
- 5) Jesus showed us that the essence of true living is total dependence on our Heavenly Father. How does a false identity based on the fallen reasoning of this world (i.e., fame, wealth, beauty, security, entertainment, etc.) limit us from being totally dependent on God?

## Taking it Home

- 7) "*People cannot consistently behave in a way that is inconsistent with how they view themselves.*" How have you seen the truth of this statement in your own life? What might need to change in your self-perception to develop a healthier Christian identity?
- 8) **Read John 8:31-32, 36.** If our identity is found in Christ, how does the truth of this claim set you free from the ways of this world? What is one thing about your identity in Christ that you don't ever want to forget?
- 9) How does having a clear identity in Christ allow us to be better ambassadors for the Good News of the Gospel?

## Prayer

Pray for the needs of your group and praise God for the amazing identity He offers us in Christ. Ask God to help you see yourself the way He does.

