

PURSUED: (Week Five)

June 30th, 2024

“PURSUED TO BECOME...”

REVIEW:

- The story of Hosea and Gomer is a parallel to God’s pursuit of us and the transformation of our identity in Christ.
- Christ paid our price, not because we are deserving or earning, but out of God’s love and grace.
- God pursues us and gives us grace despite our unworthiness.

Main Points for Today’s Message:

1. Understanding “INDICATIVES” and “IMPERATIVES”:

- Indicatives reveal the truth of who we are in Christ, while imperatives are commands based on our identity.
- **Ephesians 4:32** is a great example of forgiveness rooted in our identity as forgiven by Christ.
- It is important to acknowledge what is true about us before engaging in actions.

2. Living Out Our Identity:

- We have to understand the contrast of affirming one’s identity before addressing behavior, vs. basing our love and acceptance of them on their behavior.
- Our actions ought to flow out of our identity in Christ, not the other way around.
- As we read the Bible from cover to cover, it highlights that grace precedes the law in God’s dealing with His people.

3. Becoming Who God Says We Are:

- **Living as children of light:**
 - i. Looking at the indicative imperative in **Ephesians 5:8**, highlighting that believers are not “*the Light of the Lord.*”
 - ii. Believers do not need to earn their light, but rather shine it by living out their identity in Christ.
 - iii. We encourage you to embrace and radiate the light you have received through Christ.
- **Embracing our identity as a minister for God:**
 - i. Paul’s addresses to the saints in his letters are a reminder that all believers are called to ministry.
 - ii. Remember the importance of taking the light of Christ beyond the church walls and into the world.
- **Citizens of God’s Eternal Kingdom (1 Peter 2:9):**
 - i. Understanding the tension of living in two worlds as citizens of heaven and earth.
 - ii. Understanding the privileges and rights that come with being citizens of God’s Kingdom.
 - iii. As believers, we need to bring the elements of heaven to earth in our daily lives.
- **Move from being an orphan to being adopted (Ephesians 1:5):**
 - i. Adoption wasn’t just for infants in Paul’s day, it was for those who were in their teens and early 20’s b/c many were looking for heirs and continuance of the family name.
- **Move from being a peasant to being royalty (Ephesians 1:5):**
 - i. When you became a Christian, you became a part of His royal family with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities. With all the imperatives that come with being

associated with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

THE CHALLENGE: LEARNING TO BECOME ALL THAT GOD SAYS WE ALREADY ARE!

CONCLUSION:

- Embrace your identity in Christ and live out the truth of who you are in Christ!
- Jesus came to make dead people alive, not to make bad people good.
- The power of the Gospel goes beyond forgiveness of sin to a complete renewal of life in Christ.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS TO REFLECT AND DISCUSS:

1. What does it mean to leave behind our old ways and embrace the new identity we have in Christ?
2. In what ways do we struggle to fully embrace our identity in Christ and live according to it?
3. How does our understanding of grace as a “*Chapter 7 bankruptcy*” change our perspective on our relationship with God?
4. Reflecting on **2 Corinthians 5:17**, how has your identity in Christ transformed your life and your relationship with others?
5. How can we support and encourage one another in embracing our new identity in Christ and living a transformed life?
6. How does understanding the indicatives (*truths about our identity in Christ*) impact the way we approach our daily actions and relationships?
7. Share an experience where you have struggled with basing your identity on your actions rather than on who God says you are.
8. Reflect on the analogy of the caterpillar and butterfly. How does this imagery resonate with your own journey of transformation in Christ?
9. Discuss the tension of living as citizens of both heaven and earth. How can we bring elements of God's Kingdom into our daily lives and communities?
10. Reflect on the implications of being children of the King. How does knowing our royal identity in Christ affect our actions, attitudes, and relationships with others?