



EQUIP



Identity in Christ

Scripture

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

Colossians 2:6-7

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” *John 15:4-5*

Study

The Foundation of Christian Identity

- Because we are in union with Christ, our identity is now rooted not in what we can do for God, but rather in what God has done for us in Christ.
- The gospel reshapes our view of God (theology) and our view of self (identity).

Identity in Christ

- What are you tempted to find your identity in?
- In the Bible, followers of Jesus are identified primarily as those “in Christ.”
- If you are “in Christ,” then all the biblical truths of that identity are already yours (see the “In Christ, I Am...” handout).
- We need faith to believe not only what is true about God, but also that what God says about us is true.

Becoming Who You Already Are

- Christian growth is not a matter of changing into something you are not, but rather a matter of becoming who you truly are “in Christ.”
- In the Bible, ethical demands are based on gospel declarations.
 - Forgive others, because you have been forgiven (*Ephesians 4:32*).
 - Love others, because you have been loved (*1 John 4:19*).
 - Stop sinning, because you have been freed from sin (*Romans 6:11-12*).
- Jesus is the pattern and the power for holy living.

Walking in Christ

- Christian identity is reflected in the daily practice of dying to self and living in Christ.
- I long for _____, but I already have all the _____ I need in Christ.

Discussion

- What are you tempted to find your identity in?
- What stands out to you on the “In Christ, I Am...” handout?
- How does our identity shape the way we live?
- Why do we have to constantly remind ourselves of who we truly are in Christ?