



## **Identity Theft**

1 Peter 2:9-11

**9** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. **11** Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. **(1 Peter 2:9-11)**

### **SERMON SUMMARY**

This week, we explore a lie that we often believe about our identity. When we buy into this lie, it has the power to steal joy, lead us to places where we don't want to go, rob us of purpose, and ultimately leave us exhausted.

#### **The Lie: I am what I do**

- We often rely on external factors to define ourselves (success, failures, jobs...etc)
- There's a danger of identity amnesia, which can lead to identity replacement

#### **The Truth: I am who God says I am**

- I am what the Bible says is true of me
- To have a correct understanding of me, I need to have a correct understanding of Jesus

#### **Who am I?**

- 1) **I am accepted.** (a chosen race)
  - When Christ comes into your heart, your new identity in Christ is as fundamental as your race.
  - I am chosen and accepted by the grace of God, not because of what I do, but because of what He has done
  - Be careful of not letting your identity be wrapped up in other people's acceptance

2) **I have access.** (a royal priesthood)

- The priest was a bridge between the people and God, but now you don't need an intermediary
- I have direct access to God for forgiveness, worship, and requests
- Remember to pray, pray for each other and with each other

3) **I am an embassy of heaven.** (a holy nation)

- Holy means to be set apart from sin and to be unique
- You are to be distinct from those around you, be an embassy, a nation within a nation
- Be the salt and the light of the world

4) **I am valuable.** (a people for His possession)

- You are God's; He desires you and redeems you
- My value to God is not in what I can do for Him

**The purpose of my identity is to make the identity of God known** (see the end of verse 9). When you truly understand who God has made you, your automatic response is to declare how great God is.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Reminders for small group leaders:**

- We want everyone to interact with God's Word. Please have Bibles available for students who don't have one. We have a limited amount of Bibles available at church, so remind your people to bring theirs if they have one. Be sure to open up your Bibles together during small group!
  - Set aside a time to pray for each other during every POD. Try not to rush through this time as it's good to have people pray for each other.
  - Regularly recap how your POD is doing with your co-leaders. Are you meeting your goals? How can you help your people grow in relationship with God and with each other? Is there anyone in your POD who needs encouragement, prayer, or a meeting with one of you this week?
  - The teaching happened on Sunday at church. The purpose of small groups is to ask two questions: 1) What is God saying to me in His Word?, 2) What is He asking me to do in response?
  - Your role is to help everyone answer these two questions so that God can do His work of transforming hearts and lives.
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RECAP with your co-leader/REFLECT by yourself

- What stood out to you/encouraged you/challenged you, etc from the message?
- What is the learning point and/or action point you want the people in your small group to leave with?
- How would you summarize the sermon in one or two sentences?

## **QUESTIONS**

**Choose (if any) questions that would be good for your group to discuss, or make up your own!**

### **Getting to know you:**

- Describe yourself in three words.
- What kind of things do people find their identity in today? (school, a relationship, a job, a mistake...)
- What do you think of the phrase, “Be true to yourself?”

### **Into the Bible:**

- Which of the four descriptions in 1 Peter 2:9 do you find hardest to believe about yourself?
- Which of the four is hardest to live out?
- How have you tried to find acceptance through others?
- What are ways people might think they can earn God’s acceptance?
- Read Hebrews 10: 19– 22. What is the most meaningful part of this passage to you? Why?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. What do you think of this command? How can you practically live out this command?
- What does it mean to be holy?
- In what ways can we be distinct while still living in our world (think about your workplace, your university, your family...etc)
- What place do you feel like God is calling you to “proclaim his excellence?”
- Have you ever viewed your value in terms of what you do? How?
- In what ways has God shown he values you?
- How can you use your identity in Christ to make God known to those around us?

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **College:**

- Fall Retreat is on October 18-20. Sign up at [osuepic.com](http://osuepic.com)
- Epic large group is on Thursday at MU13

### **All church:**

- Pastor Don's retirement party is on October 13th, 2019 starting at 6pm at the Fairgrounds
- We have a church app now! Go to the app store to download, search "Grant Avenue"
- Grant Ave's Fall Festival is on October 27th