

PROBLEMS WITH IDENTITY

FINDING YOURSELF IN CHRIST

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"

~ 2 Corinthians 5:17

1. Who are you?

- a. This is a most important lesson learned for the saved person.
- b. How do you identify yourself? – job, heritage, country, politics, biology, desire, gender?
- c. Identity = sameness, identical, image, likeness – Whose image do you bear?
- d. How are you known? Who knows you? What will you become? Where do you live/access?

2. Problems

- a. *"Don't let anyone else define you"* – The parent problem, what about God?
 - i. The great sin was rejecting the true identity of God – Rom 1:21,23,25; Exo 20:2
- b. *"You are whatever you want to be"* – obviously not (transgender, American Idol, experts)
 - i. God knows those that are his - Matt 7:22,23; 2 Tim 2:19-20 (Num 16)
- c. *"A rose by any other name"* ... is called by the wrong name – who's your daddy?
 - i. It matters where you came from - Gen 1:27, 5:1-3; Rom 8:14, Eph 3:15
- d. *"Be yourself"* – Which sounds good, unless you are jerk. Rom 3:10, Rom 5:12
 - i. Can you change who you are? Matt 7:16, 2 Cor 5:16-17
- e. *"You are what you do"* – Ghandi, Masons, Catholics, Law-based religions
 - i. What about sin? What about grace? – Gal 3:26, Eph 5:7-8, 1 Cor 1:2, 6:11,6:19
- f. *"Know thyself"* - Rather we should know God... Prov 9:10
 - i. Paul says it is all loss except the knowledge of Christ Jesus – Phil 3:8-10
- g. *"Home is where the heart is"* – unless you are coveting another man's house – Exo 20:17
 - i. You cannot go where you are not invited, don't belong, have no right

3. Being Christian

- a. You are not saved without the gospel of Christ.
- b. Being saved... a Christian finds their identity in Christ.
- c. Whose image do you bear? – That of Christ 1 Cor 15:45-49, Col 3:10-11
- d. How are you known? – a son of God, saint, new creature in Christ – Gal 3:26-28
- e. Who knows you? – The God of heaven knows you in Christ - Gal 4:5-9
- f. What will you become? – Glorified in Christ - Rom 8:15, 8:29-30, Eph 2:7
- g. Where do you live/access? – Not here, access to God - Eph 2: 18, 3:12, Ro 5:2, Col 3:2-3
- h. By faith your perception of who you are changes – your identity is found in Christ.
- i. Without Christ, you are not who God intended you to be; in Christ, you are – 2 Cor 5:17
- j. Suddenly, knowing the truth, our identity problems go away.