

October 14, 2018

"Who Am I?"

Ephesians 1:3-6

Ice Breaker:

- What were some of the labels, nicknames, cutting or positive, that people stuck on you as a kid in school?
- The most important things in life are not 'visible'. Name some things that you can't touch or see, but are very real and impact us every day.

Study Questions: (READ Ephesians 1:3-6)

1. What insight, principle or observation did you find to be most fresh, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.
2. In v.3 the word "blessed" is used three times. What different definitions are used for that same word? Why does Paul start out describing our position of blessing instead of our "sin" problem and need?
3. In what way is God's desire for us to exalt Him, not an ego trip, but actually most loving toward us?
4. Who or what do you allow to shape your identity? (You know they shouldn't have that right but...)
5. In various times of your life, how has your identity shaped your behavior?
6. How do you know if you are "chosen"?
7. Why does God choose some and not others? That doesn't seem fair.
8. If people are elected to salvation by God a very long time ago, what is my motivation to evangelize? Why should I try to live a holy life if I'm in no matter what?
9. What does it mean practically that we are adopted and God is our Father? Why should that cause us to praise?

Pray for each other:

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What labels have been stuck on you? By kids in grade school? Parents? Boss? Maybe you've given yourself a few labels. Who do you give the right to shape your identity? The writer of Ephesians wants us to see our identity in Christ. Accept who God says we are. Let our identity in Christ then shape our behavior. Identity shapes behavior.

Who am I?

1. I am blessed. V.3
2. I am chosen v.4
3. I am adopted v.5

Why?

God wants us to be _____ by His grace and _____ Him. V.6

Next Step

Think about people or circumstances that at various times in your life, you have given them the right to shape your identity. OK, now...think about God. Invite Him to be the One who gives you your real identity. Picture God sitting across from you at coffee this next week. Who would He say you are?