

## **Your Identity in Christ**

### ***A Seven Week Series on Our Identity As Christians***

#### **I Am a Saint**

*Greet all the saints in Christ Jesus. (Phil 4:21)*

The Apostle Paul's favorite way to refer to Christians was with the term saint. The term saint means holy or set apart. You are a saint!

#### **I Am a Child of God**

*Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)*

To be a Christian is to be adopted into God's family. You are a child of God!

#### **I Am in Christ**

*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. (2 Cor 5:17)*

All of God's great promises to Christians are fulfilled through the person of Jesus Christ. Rejoice Christian, you are in Christ!

#### **I Am Loved by God**

*But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom 5:8)* God cannot improve upon the quality of love for you because God is perfect, so He already loves you with a perfect love. You are loved by God!

#### **I Am Redeemed**

*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. (Eph 1:7)*

The value of an object can be seen in what someone is willing to pay for that object. God purchased you at the cost of His Son. You have been redeemed!

#### **I Am Perfect in Christ**

*He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation. (Col 1:22)*

You might be a great sinner, but Jesus is a great Savior. Through the gospel, you are declared to be perfectly righteous. You are perfect in Christ!

#### **I Am Significant**

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9)* You are significant because of what Jesus has done for you, not because of what you have done for Jesus. You are significant!

## **Your Identity in Christ I am a Child of God!**

The most important aspect of your relationship with God is not what you can give to Him or to others or to the Church. It's who you are.

Some of you have placed upon yourself a false burden that the most important thing about you is what you do. You look for value, significance and even identity based on what you do. You need to know that your culture reinforces this. The most common question we ask other people when we are making acquaintances is some form of, "What do you do?"

We live in a performance-based society and it's super easy to bring that into our relationship with God and feel as if God evaluates us based on what we do. We also bring this into our relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ and evaluate them based on what they do. We even evaluate ourselves as Christians based on what we do.

This series on identity is all about grace. God's grace given to undeserving people. God's grace that makes us rich. God's grace that highly values us and sees us as a treasured possession.

***He predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ,  
in accordance with his pleasure and will. Ephesians 1:3-5***

The significance of your status as a child of God is best understood when you begin with two things:

1. You were once far from God.  
AND
2. You are now a child of God. (Not a servant but a child)

1:4 *He chose us in Him*

More on being in Christ next week but this lets you know that the pathway to adoption is Jesus. God adopts you into His family through the merit and the work of adoption.

God has richly blessed you because He has chosen you in Christ to be adopted as His child. God did this because He loves you. The demonstration of God's love IS your adoption into His family.

***For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." Romans 8:15***

Pastor Karl's note: Spirit of sonship = Spirit of adoption.

Sin can produce doubt, worry, fear.

Sin can lead us to question our standing before God and our effectiveness for God.

Sin can actually lead us to a point where we are afraid of God Himself.

In the Ancient World, the inheritance was passed through the sons. Only males were eligible to receive the family inheritance. In referring to all Christians the same way, Paul has leveled the playing field. Men and women are equal in their standing before God, they are equal in their inheritance.

To be adopted means that God loves you as if you have done all that Jesus did.

## Home Group Discussion Questions:

1. As a group - read out loud the seven "I am" statements that will be covered in this series. Which of these statements do you connect with the most?
2. In what ways can the first two messages of this series be helpful to you?  
(I am a saint. I am a child of God.)
3. Read the two sections of Scripture again – Eph 1:3-5 and Rom 8:15-17 – and share your observations of those Scriptures as well as any insights you may have gained from Sunday's teaching.
4. In our culture, it's possible that much of a Christian's self-worth is based on performance and others' opinions. It's even possible that false beliefs have become the primary basis you use to evaluate yourself.

For example:

I am good if I do good.

Based on what I've done, God can't use me.

I am a better Christian if I can be good all the time.

I can't be happy unless things go my way.

God's love must be earned.

A good Christian doesn't feel angry, anxious or discouraged.

I must have everyone's love and approval.

- Do any of these statements connect with your thoughts and beliefs?
- If so, does knowing you are a chosen and loved child of God help in challenging those old beliefs?

5. Perhaps we should be asking a big picture question as we dig deeper into this series...  
Do you really think it's possible to think differently about yourself? Why or why not?