

# Small Group Discussion Guide

“Who are You?” (pt. 3) – 10.17.2013

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 5:16-5:21

**Bottom Line:** In Christ, you are a new creation who is reconciled to God to represent Christ BY THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL!

## INTRODUCTION:

In what ways have you been identified by people in your life? What are you most known for among those you encounter on a daily basis (a mechanic, a great cook, “Jill’s Mom, “John’s son”, etc.)? Name a positive and a negative aspect in which people have identified you in the past. What type of impact has this had on your life?

## UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-17**

We have all been defined by situations, circumstances and decisions we've made in our past. Some of them we boast in, but others may bring us shame or guilt. Jesus steps in, removes our shame and redefines our identity. His rising from the dead changed any incorrect views or thoughts we may have about Him. Our faith in Him also changes our identity. We too have been raised with Christ. We are no longer defined by past success or failures. God the Father now looks at us and declares us clean and spotless because of Jesus' work on our behalf. Our lives are not defined by what we have done, but by what Jesus has done for us. In Jesus, we find our identity.

- 1) In Jesus, we have the opportunity to not be defined by past failure or success. How does this impact your life?
- 2) How does Jesus' resurrection change your identity?

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-19**

How do we receive our new identity in Christ? It is ALL from God! On the cross, Jesus fully paid what we owed. He took all of our guilt, all of our shame and all of our brokenness upon Himself. He received the wrath that

we earned because of our sin. We received Jesus' perfection and sinlessness. This is called the "great exchange." He takes on our sin and we receive His righteousness. We do nothing to earn our right standing before God. All of this is from God alone.

- 1) How should we respond to the radical grace which God has provided for us?

### Read 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

In Christ, we are a new creation reconciled to God in order to represent Him with our lives. We are not saved to make much of ourselves, but to make much of Jesus. In Christ, we do not have to seek out our purpose in life. He has already given it to us! We represent Jesus in whatever we do. Our purpose is to represent Jesus as bankers, teachers, coaches, parents, cashiers, etc. This type of life is available because of Jesus' work on our behalf. He became our sin and took the punishment we deserved. If Jesus did not go to the cross we have no purpose.

- 1) Do you currently view yourself as an ambassador of God? What would representing God look like in your daily life?

### UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

We often spend a lot of time wondering how we are identified by the people around us. However, we often fail to contemplate how we identify ourselves and the impact our view has on our life. How do you define yourself? Are you still hanging on to past mistakes or failures? Perhaps, we should begin to identify ourselves as God sees us. In Christ, we have been made clean. In Christ, we have new life. In Christ, we are no longer defined by our past mistakes. In Christ, we are spotless and unblemished before the Father because of Jesus' work. What an incredible gift God has given us! We can now rest in knowing that we are right with God forever. He doesn't condemn us...why should we condemn ourselves?

### LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

- 1) How can you represent Jesus in your daily life?
- 2) Pray that God would help you to embrace your new identity in Him.
- 3) Name one person you can invest and invite to our Christmas service. Pray for them as a group.
- 4) Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:21