
GROUP WARM UP:

1. Over the last week, what's one way I have noticed God working in your life? Or in the lives of others? In your community? In the world?

DISCUSSION:

Sermon Big Idea: The journey of discipleship is learning to live out your union with Christ which results in a new **ME**, a new **WE**, and a new **WAY**.

KEY TAKEAWAYS/APPLICATION:

- The Bible assigns everyone an identity that determines their destiny.
 - Union with Christ allows us to live the way of Jesus.
 - Our new identity secures us in the ultimate safe place, providing unimaginable benefits.
1. The sermon suggested that "union with Christ" is a central but often overlooked and ignored doctrine. Why do you think this doctrine might be less discussed and studied than others? If it is new for you, why is it hard to grasp? Why do you think we need our imaginative capacities to grasp? How would you explain it to a non-Christian? How would you explain it to a new believer? How would you explain it to a youth/teenager?
 2. Read all of Romans 5. Consider the two identities between being "in Adam" and being "in Christ" to explain the concept of identity. How does understanding these two distinct identities help clarify a believer's new beginning? How would you incorporate these two identities when you share the good news with an unbeliever?
 3. The sermon describes the new identity in Christ as a gift that is "received" rather than "earned." How does this idea challenge the modern emphasis on self-determination and creating one's own identity? Modern culture tells us to look inward or outward for our identity—through achievements, relationships, status, job/vocation, or self-expression. Where do you most often look for your sense of worth or identity outside of Christ? What would it look like to shift that focus?

4. The journey of discipleship is learning to live out who we already are in Christ. What is one area of your life where you still feel pressure to “achieve” your identity instead of receiving it? Because of our sin nature, we can easily find ourselves living with an “identity crisis.” What is one step you’ll take this week to remind yourself of your true identity? Consider this area for the rest of September and reflect more on your identity. Notice and observe your own thoughts, beliefs, and patterns as they relate to identity. Make this September’s personal growth project: start to pray and surrender this area to the Lord. Ask him to teach you how union with Christ secures your identity “in Him.” Pray specifically for him to teach you more about the benefits you have “in Christ” as it relates to your area of struggle with identity. If it helps, each day, take time to list a benefit in your prayer journal and thank God that your identity is “hidden in Christ.” Col. 3:1-4).
5. The message stated, “Our union with Christ secures us in the most protected place imaginable—hidden in God Himself.” When you feel insecure, anxious, or like a failure, how can you practically remember and rest in this security?
6. The sermon listed spiritual benefits of union with Christ: justified, sanctified, adopted, loved, empowered, glorified, etc. Which of these is hardest for you to believe is true about you? Why?
- 7.
8. Our “communion” with Christ (our sense of closeness) can fluctuate, but our “union” with Christ never changes. How do you usually respond when you feel distant from God? How could remembering your unchangeable union help you in those times?
9. Pastor Jason said, “Union with Christ is the lens through which all of Scripture and discipleship should be understood.” How might this change the way you read the Bible or approach spiritual growth?