

3. A New Identity

Our Union with Christ gives us a new mindset about our who we are in him and what gives us value and satisfaction..

Colossians 3:1-4



Pinocchio. Luke Skywalker. Princess Elsa. What do they have in common? While their stories are admittedly very different, they all struggle with the question of their identity. They're all asking in one way or another, "who am I?" What makes me, me?

The theme of identity dominates the stories we know and love, and perhaps it's because it's a theme that also dominates our lives. It's a constant struggle of being human.

And for the Christian person, this struggle is all too real. On one hand, there's what God says about us. Yet on the other hand, our world and our culture would like nothing more than for us to "choose our own identity."



Discussion

1. Take a moment to think, and finish this sentence:
"I am _____."

2. In our society, we often hear things like "be the best version of yourself", "do what's right for you", or "just be true to yourself"
— Can you relate to any of these? How?



Rankin Wilbourne says in his book "Union with Christ",

"Union with Christ give you a completely new self-understanding found outside of yourself. Union with Christ gives you a new identity. In fact, that's one way to define the Christian faith: faith is finding your identity in Christ...Union with Christ tells you that you can only understand who you are in communion with God and others. And that is a wildly countercultural claim."

What does the Bible say about identity for people who are in Christ?

Have a look at these passages and jot down some notes:

Phil 3:20-21; Rom 8:9-17; 2 Cor 5:17; Matt 11:28-30 Col 3:1-4; Heb 4:14-16

3. Why is what Paul says in the Colossians passage good news – that you must look outside yourself to find yourself?

4. Who are we to God? How does He see us?

NAVIGATION POINT

5. How do you think understanding your union with Christ might help change your mindset about what gives you your identity? (discuss as a group)

Choose your own Identity	VS	Union with Christ
Unlimited freedom that often leads to paralysis, to greater anxiety and questions like: Am I Significant? Have I done enough? Am I accepted?		Christ gives us permission to rest – “your life is now hidden with Christ in God (Col3:3) Our life is justified in him, not in the consequences of our choices.
Having more choices actually makes us more discontent		Our contentment comes through Jesus. We're free to enjoy life without the burden of “what's next.”
It affects our view of God, he becomes a convenient yet distant God- You are the centre of your life. We let God into our story....sometimes.		Union with Christ says God is closer and more intimate than we ever imagine. He displaces you from the center of your life. God brings us into his story.

6. Does one of these problems with choose your own identity resonate with you more? If so, in what ways? How does being united with Jesus help you wrestle with it?

7. In Q2 we heard a few of the catch-cries of today's society. How might this study help us respond to each other when find ourselves saying these sorts of things?