

## Who Am I?

### Introduction

Recently- talked about some of the dramatic changes we are seeing in our culture.

The tides of culture can change very quickly- they can sweep out one cultural perspective and sweep in another almost overnight.

Religious freedom- which has been part of our nation since its inception- is now looked at as a license to discriminate.

Those things that were once unthinkable have become unquestionable.

There is an animosity in our culture towards people w/conservative views on moral issues.

Because of the current cultural climate and the pressure to conform- many are compromising.

Christians are compromising what have been historical Christian teaching for millennia-

- >marriage/family,

- >who God/Jesus is,

- >the idea of absolute truth

  - (considered intolerance)

- >authority of the Bible as the infallible Word of God

John Stonestreet poses some relevant questions- what does it mean ...

- >to be culturally engaged and yet faithful to the Lord/truths we find in scripture?

- >to live counter culturally and yet live for the good of the world at the same time?

We must become a community whose primary identity is built on God and His Word.

**The cultural pressure is so great, if we as the church are not deeply instructed in the principles of the Christian faith, we will be swept away in the ebb and flow of today's cultural tides.**

This is particularly true for our children and young people- who are the next generation. We, as the people of God, must commit ourselves to become informed in ...

- >our Christian identity (in Christ), and
- >Christian truth (what does- Bible say),  
so our allegiance is to- truth of God's Word more than the world's ideas.

We must embrace the reality that we are going to be counter cultural- swimming against- tide.

**1 Pet 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;**

We are called- carry a message of hope to- world.

### **Becoming a Disciple**

To carry a message of hope we must become true believers and followers of Jesus Christ.

We are called believers- what do you believe?

What we believe about God, ourselves, others, and our circumstances is very important.

**Every day we can walk with Jesus in the Gospels and see what he did and hear what he said! Then we can do what he did. That is simply "following Jesus" in our setting and culture. (Pastor Larry Bazer)**

The challenge P Larry gives- is this- are we going to be a fan of Jesus or a follower of Jesus?

Fans observe from a distance, followers get involved- they know who Jesus is.

**If we have no desire to talk with Jesus daily and to hear a fresh word from him daily we must honestly ask ourselves whether there is a relationship! (Bazer)**

We serve a great big God- a God with whom nothing is impossible.

Four pillars of truth ...

- >God is good,
- >nothing is impossible w/God,
- >every victory was won at Calvary,
- >every one is significant in God's eyes.

Many times we see God smaller than He is ...

**Lk 19.36-40**

Jews- expecting Jesus to come, set up His Kingdom- defeat the Roman Empire.

But Jesus had His sights- something much bigger than setting people free from Roman rule.

He had come to set people free from the much greater enemy of sin/death- imprisoned men.

Their Jesus was too small/our Jesus is too small.

We need to see/acknowledge what He is doing.

**Saw- underground drainage pipe. Above ground, in the air- bad things- going on- but God has an underground movement. Elijah, afraid of Jezebel- cried out to God- I am the only one left- God said I have 7000 you do not know about. There is something going on under the surface that we cannot see. Helen Badger**

Jesus is at work in ways we can only imagine- in our lives as individuals and in our great nation.

**Jonah- running from God, would not yield his heart to the purposes of God. Jonah- swallowed by a great fish- 3 days and nights in the belly of this fish- faced w/his own thoughts/sin. Jonah felt helpless/trapped. What he failed to recognize was that the whale was going somewhere, moving towards a God determined destination.** Pastor Tim Franklin

God is moving in us- personally/nation- towards a God determined destination- must not give up. God is doing everything He can to move us from where we are to where He wants us to be.

### **Our Identity in Christ**

If we- going to experience spiritual breakthrough- and not be swept away by the tide- we must understand who we are in Christ.

**John 8:31–32 (NASB95)**

**<sup>31</sup>So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; (what if we do not continue?)**

**<sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”**

Continue- remain in, abide in, stay in

We have been set free from the law of sin/death to walk in the fulness of God’s resurrection life. The opposite of truth is deception which leads to spiritual/emotional/physical bondage.

If we constantly see ourselves as a failure we will not walk in the authority we have in Christ.

If we feel unworthy of God's favor/blessing even after Christ died for us and made us worthy- we are denying- work of Christ in our life.

**I am worthy of God's love because the blood of Jesus has made me worthy.**

Who am I in Christ ...

1. God loves you

We are loved by God- not because of what we have done- because of who we are in Christ.

**Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

God wanted a relationship with us even before we opened our hearts towards Him.

Let me take God's love for us a step further ...

**Jn 17:22-23**

**22"“The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one;**

**23I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.**

God loves us w/same love He loves Jesus and demonstrated that love by Jesus dying for us.

2. God purchased you to be His very own

**Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**1 Cor 6:19-20**

**19 ... you are not your own?**

**20For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.**

God purchased us with the blood of His Son  
because of His deep love for us.

God is committed to our success.

**Phil 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.**

3. You have received the gift of righteousness

In Christ a great exchange takes place.

**Rom 4:3 For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”**

**<sup>4</sup>Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due.**

**<sup>5</sup>But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,**

We are declared righteous in God’s eyes, not on-  
basis- good behavior- but through faith in God.

In your notes- the list goes on ...

4. I am complete in Christ (Col 2:10)

5. I am alive with Christ (Eph 2:5)

6. I am free from the law of sin/death (Rom 8:2)

7. I have the mind of Christ (1 Cor 2:16; Phil 2:5)

8. I have the peace of God (Phil 4:7)

9. I have the Greater One living in me (1 Jn 4:4)

10. I can do all things through Christ (Phil 4:13)

11. I am a new creature in Christ (2 Cor 5:17)

12. I am more than a conqueror (Rom 8:37)

13. I seated w/Christ in heavenly places (Eph 2:6)

**See Handout- Welcome Desk (Joyce Meyers)**

## **Conclusion**

You need to know who you are in Christ so ...

>you can live your life as God intended

>fulfill your God created destiny

>not be swept away in today's cultural tides

The more you agree w/God about your identity-  
more your behavior will reflect that identity.

Study the Word of God and see yourself as God  
sees you.

Accept what God says about you over what your  
flesh, the world, and others, say about you.

In Mat 7 Jesus says there are two foundations on  
which we can build our life.

### **Matthew 7:24–27 (NASB95)**

**24“Therefore everyone who hears these  
words of Mine and acts on them, may be  
compared to a wise man who built his  
house on the rock.**

**25“And the rain fell, and the floods came,  
and the winds blew and slammed  
against that house; and yet it did not fall,  
for it had been founded on the rock.**

**26“Everyone who hears these words of  
Mine and does not act on them, will be  
like a foolish man who built his house on  
the sand.**

**27“The rain fell, and the floods came, and  
the winds blew and slammed against  
that house; and it fell—and great was its  
fall.”**

Your identity does not depend on something you  
have done/do/do not do.

Your true identity is who God says you are.

Once you choose to be a follower of Jesus, and not just a fan observing from the sidelines, you become a new creation ...

**2 Cor 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.**

You need to know who you are in Christ so you can know what to do and how to do it.

If you choose ...

through lack of interest/motivation, to make no effort to understand who you are, your house will fall and you will be swept away in today's cultural tides

In Christ however, you are building your house on the ROCK, which is Christ- and it will stand.