



LIFE EMPOWERMENT LESSON NOTES
Discovering Your Identity in Christ

Introduction:

Trying to define ourselves by possessions, accomplishments, or the way others perceive us often leads to disappointment. We were designed to live as God's children, finding our ultimate fulfillment and contentment in His will for our lives. It is important as Christians that we discover who we are in Christ.

DISCUSS

HELLO
my name is



- Honestly describe yourself. How do you *really* define who you are?
- Evaluate your answer to the question above. To what extent are you dependent on external attributes or roles—such as appearance, education, skills, family relationships, and occupation—to describe yourself?

1. Unless we define our identity primarily by _____, we will encounter problems over time.

Romans 12:1-2 New Living Translation (NLT)

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Ephesians 5:7-10 New Living Translation (NLT)

⁷ Don't participate in the things these people do. ⁸ For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! ⁹ For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.

¹⁰ Carefully determine what pleases the Lord.

As important as our identity is in regard to what we do, our finances and possessions, there is an even more important identity based on who we are in Christ.

As a Christian you cannot talk about your identity without talking about the action of God on you, the relationship of God with you, and the purpose of God for you. The biblical understanding of human self-identity is radically God-centered.

2. Your identity defines your _____ in life.

1 Peter 2:9-10 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹ But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Keep in mind that Peter is identifying Christians. What gives us our identity is not color or culture. It's the fact that we have been chosen by God. Your identity leads to your destiny. You are chosen for a purpose—to minister as priests.

In other words he has given us our identity in order that his identity might be proclaimed through us. God made us who we are so we could make known who he is. Our identity is for the sake of making known his identity. The meaning of our identity is that the excellence of God be seen in us.

3. Walk in your _____ identity. When you invite Jesus into your life, He does not do a partial job of patching up your life. He turns you into a totally new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

When Christ is invited into a person's heart, a metamorphosis begins to take place.

The butterfly isn't a caterpillar with wings; it is a new being with a new identity. The caterpillar was known for crawling on the earth with its many feet and eating leaves. The butterfly is known for being able to fly in the air –on wings of beauty and drinking nectar from flowers. That old being is gone and so is its identity. The caterpillar had no part in that process of change; its Creator did it all. And so the butterfly can never be a caterpillar again because God did away with the old creation and made a new creation. That same process of change occurs to every person who is "in Christ."

From God's view point, that change from being "out of Christ" (dead) to being "in Christ" (alive) took place instantly. But it takes much longer for a Christian to learn about it –and even longer for him to accept what he has become. Our old identity was very dependent on how our attitudes and actions measured up on God's standard of good and bad works. But our new identity is not based on us –it's based on Him –His grace – His acceptance.

4. We discover our unique identity as we _____ to the Lord.

James 4:8 NKJV

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

God created us in his image to enjoy relationship with him and reflect his image. When we image ourselves after his son Jesus Christ, we enjoy God's promise of love, joy and belonging. Enjoying relationship with God gives us a meaningful purpose and defines our true identity as his children.

Being "in Christ" makes us united with Him in every way. We are heirs, brothers and children with Him. Our identity is our relation to God.

Answers: 1) Our relationship with Christ; 2) Purpose; 3) New; 4) Draw closer

Resources

(This Bible Study was adapted from the following resources)

Hello My Name Is. Image Retrieved From: <http://pcnp.org/church/wp-content/uploads/identity-1024x791.jpg>

Identity in Christ: You Now Have a New ID. (1996-2006). Retrieved from: http://myredeemer.org/foundation/identity/new_id.shtml

Stanley, C. (2014). Discovering Your Identity in Christ.

Retrieved from:

http://www.intouch.org/you/biblestudies/content.aspx?topic=Discovering_Your_Identity_in_Christ_study