

STUDY NOTES

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN A SERIES *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “Chasing Identities” on 7/15/18 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: COLOSSIANS 3:1-17

CHASING IDENTITY

Everyone wants to find their identity. We want to answer the question of “Who am I?”. How we usually try to answer this is question by trying a bunch of things in hopes of finding something that shapes our identity.

Chasing your identity in earthly things is selling yourself to a cheap version of you.

- *How has chasing your identity left you feeling exhausted?*

GIVEN AN IDENTITY WITH CHRIST

Paul is reminding us that Jesus flips the script. Chasing after our identity is backwards to how God created us. When we believe in Jesus, our identity is given to us. Paul describes this identity as “with Christ”

- *In what ways should our new identity with Christ be refreshing to us?*

As humans it is our propensity to do things ourselves. Being given an identity seems to easy, so we turn back to this old way of finding our identity. We turn to sex. We

turn to status. We turn to power. We turn to performance. But those aren't helpful because those aren't who we are. They don't define you. Jesus defines you.

- *How is it hard for you to accept the identity that Jesus has given to you?*
- *How is chasing after these earthly identities turning back to a cheap version of yourself?*

LIVING WITH CHRIST

Read Colossians 3:10-14 again. Paul describes the new identity in these verses. These are the qualities that are found in Jesus—the one who created us, designed us, and knows that our best self is found when our identity is with him. When we walk in these qualities, then we are being renewed after the image of our creator. We are walking in our new identity as truly and fully human.

To be with Christ, means that I should be like Christ.

- *What does it mean to you to know that Christ set an example in these qualities, rather than just telling us to do it?*

ACCOUNTABLE TO OUR NEW IDENTITY

We need each other to keep us accountable to this new identity is Christ. If we aren't honest with ourselves and with each other, we will just keep turning back to our old way. In theory, this sounds great, but it will mean that we have to let others see into our lives. It will mean that we need to change some things.

If our identity is with Christ, then we will be willing to change.

- *How does an unwillingness to change show that we aren't finding our identity with Christ?*
- *How can your group help keep each other accountable to this identity with Christ?*
- *Pray with each other to walk in our identity with Christ.*