

PRACTICAL APPLICATION _____

1. What aspect of Gospel identity is most challenging for you currently: Believing who you are in Christ or rejecting the world's view of where identity is found? Explain.
2. How does knowing you are adopted by God change your view of yourself and God?
3. In what ways do you need the grace and peace Paul mentioned in his greeting to the Christians in Ephesus (see **Eph. 1:2**)?

PRAYER REQUESTS _____

MESSAGE NOTES

Made Alive series: True Identity

Jeff Walling

Text: Ephesians 1:3-12

Crossroads Christian Church

October 16, 2022

I. "Who do you think you are?"

1. Like many of Paul's letters, Ephesians is a two-part message that addresses _____ and _____ (Ephesians 3:20-4:1).
2. He begins with a core teaching about our _____, because _____ has been a problem long before the _____ (Genesis 27:15-19).
3. Without a _____ of what constitutes our identity, we cannot become the _____ God calls us to be (Ephesians 1:18-19).

II. The Great Identity Debate! (Ephesians 1:3-12)

1. While some say I am just an _____ ... God says I am His _____.
2. While some say I am just a _____ ... God says I am a chosen _____.
3. While some say I am _____ ... God says I am _____ through Christ's _____.

"May God grant us the strength to live like who He says we are!"

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CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

For the week of October 16, 2022

GETTING STARTED _____

1. When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up? Why?

2. What similarities exist between what you do now and what you thought you wanted to do?

DIGGING DEEPER _____

1. Describe a time when you have wanted a do-over—a time when you either did something you shouldn't have or didn't do something you should have. Why did you want a do-over?

2. When you think back on your past, do your thoughts gravitate toward your successes or failures? Why do you think that is?

Do you typically see yourself first in terms of your relationship with Christ, or in terms of others' opinions and expectations of you? Why?

3. Paul opens the book of Ephesians with an incredible prayer and celebration of a much larger story. Paul knows that if we understand the larger story, then we as Christians would understand what's happening in the smaller story.

Read **Ephesians 1:1-10**. Why does Paul begin this passage by giving us his credentials?

4. Look back at **Ephesians 1:3-14**. In the space below, write out the benefits of being in Christ.

According to these verses, which of the benefits of being in Christ stands out to you the most right now? Explain.

How does being “in Christ” change the way you live your life?

If you've been following Jesus for several years, how have things changed since your early years of faith?

5. In **Colossians 1:26-27**, Paul defines the mystery as “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” What does that mean, and how does it compare to the teaching in **Ephesians 1**?