



BREAKING THE ICE

When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

How have your aspirations changed as you have gotten older?

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This week as we continue our Up There, Down Here series in Colossians, Pastor Kevin talked about the subject of our identity.

1. When someone says, “Tell me about yourself,” what do you normally say? Would you say that’s how you identify yourself?

Pastor, author and speaker, Paul David Tripp believes many of us all have an unseen disease called Identity Amnesia. Identity Amnesia is when we forget who we are. We look to the world and people in the world to tell us who we are. We find our identity in our jobs, accomplishments, relationships, what other people think of us or have even said about us. But in the last 6 months, many of those things have shifted and caused us to feel shaken up.

2. What part of your identity has been shaken in the last 6 months?

Being a spouse, friend, co-worker, parent, sibling--these are all roles and responsibilities in our lives. But those roles can change; they ebb and flow with seasons. If we put our faith in those roles we can experience insecurity. We can try to find our identity in the horizontal relationships we have in our lives, but the true source of our identity is found in the vertical relationship we have with God.

Read Colossians 3:1-3.

To receive a new identity, you have to leave the old one behind. When we choose to follow Jesus we take

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on the identity of belonging to Him.

When we make a public declaration of our faith through baptism, outwardly we become who we are inwardly. Mere religion is made up of changes you make outwardly, following a list of things to do and not to do. But when we begin to follow Christ, our relationship with Jesus grows stronger and we want to be more like Him.

3. How have you let religion be part of your identity? What did that do to your identity?

4. How has your relationship with Jesus change your identity?

When we get our identity vertically from God it allows us to change from the inside out. We can tell ourselves who we are but we're not always correct. When we go straight to God, He tells us exactly who He has created us to be through Him.

We are constantly changing and redefining what we think and feel. God is never-changing. That's why it's important to find our identity vertically through Him.

5. Are you the same as you were 5 years ago, 10 years ago, 15 years ago? What has changed about you?

Our identity is secure in Christ, and nothing can separate us from the love of God. At times, we try to accomplish more and earn our security by doing more, but He has never told us that we needed to earn it. He will never leave us nor forsake us.

6. How have you tried to earn your security in Christ?

Read Colossians 3:4-10.

God has promised us forever with Him when we choose to follow Him. He wants the best for us. He wants us to be free from sin so it doesn't take us out. He wants us to live in the freedom He provides through His Son and the Holy Spirit living inside of us, to rid us of the things we put above Him.

7. How have you experienced God's freedom in your life?

God has many promises He has given us in His word. Pastor Kevin gave us some in the message this week:

If you are in Christ, You are a CHILD of God. You are a FRIEND of God. You have been JUSTIFIED and

REDEEMED. Your old life has been crucified with Christ, you are no longer a SLAVE to sin. You have been set FREE from sin and death. You are an HEIR with Christ. ACCEPTED by Christ. You are a SAINT. You are a TEMPLE of the Holy Spirit, HE dwells in you. You are a NEW creation. You have his RIGHTEOUSNESS. You are an HEIR to heaven. You are CHOSEN. You are REDEEMED and FORGIVEN. You are SEATED in heavenly places with Christ. You are God's WORKMANSHIP to produce good works. You are a MEMBER of his body. You were in DARKNESS now you're in the LIGHT. You are a CITIZEN of heaven. God SUPPLIES all your needs. You are COMPLETE in Christ. RAISED up with Christ. HIDDEN with Christ. Christ is your life.

8. Which one of these statements resonate with you the most and why?

When we put our faith in Him, all of these things become true about us. We have a new identity in Him.

Read Colossians 3:11-14.

We are all united in our identity in Jesus when we choose to follow Him. Our identity is not based on race, nationality, class, culture or ethnicity. We are all equal in His eyes.

PRAYER

Jesus, help us find our identity in you. Reveal to us the horizontal things we have let identify us. Shift our focus to the vertical identity we find in you. Surround us with people that can help us follow you and find our identity in you. In Jesus name, Amen.

ACTION STEPS

Ask God where you have made horizontal things in your life your identity. Spend time with Him to receive your identity with Him vertically.

If you need some reminders of the promises of your identity in Him, take a statement or a few from this list and write them down where you will see them to remember your vertical identity in Him and who He has called you to be.

You are a CHILD of God.

You are a FRIEND of God.

You have been JUSTIFIED and REDEEMED.

Your old life has been crucified with Christ, you are no longer a SLAVE to sin. You have been set FREE from sin and death.

You are an HEIR with Christ.

ACCEPTED by Christ.

You are a SAINT.

You are a TEMPLE of the Holy Spirit, HE dwells in you.

You are a NEW creation.

You have his RIGHTEOUSNESS.

\You are an HEIR to heaven.

You are CHOSEN.

You are REDEEMED and FORGIVEN.

You are SEATED in heavenly places with Christ.

You are God's WORKMANSHIP to produce good works.

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You were in DARKNESS now you're in the light.

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