

MAIN POINT

Although we often live under false identities, Christ proclaims the truth of who we are in Him.

INTRODUCTION

Share some of the false identities that you saw in yourself before knowing Christ. How has your identity changed over the years because of Jesus?

Much of the Book of Ephesians revolves around the idea of identity. The Book of Ephesians was written to tell us who we are in Christ. We are told by others who they think we are. We often allow our past to dictate who we see ourselves as. We let our failures identify us. The enemy desires to tell you who you are, which is in stark contrast to the truth of who Christ says you are: "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love that He had for us, made us alive in Christ even though we were dead in trespasses."

DISCUSSION

> READ EPHESIANS 2:1-10.

How do verses 1-3 help us understand what sin is? How do they show us that sin is not just a bad choice, but a condition in which we live?

Why is it important that we understand that humanity, apart from Christ, is dead and not just bad? How does understanding this change the way we view the good news of the gospel?

Paul referred to his audience in past tense terms because this was how they once were. Why, even as Christians, is it helpful for us to remember our sinful condition before Christ? How does doing so change the way we view others apart from Christ?

Look back at verses 4-7. Discover and describe the attributes of God you see in this passage.

Focus now on verses 8-10. Why is it important to know that God didn't just save us *from* something, but *to* something? How does this challenge and encourage your heart today?

Why do you think God wants us to know that we are His workmanship? Is it difficult for you to believe this about yourself? Why or why not?

APPLICATION

What is one way you can remind yourself of who you were before Christ without feeling a sense of judgment or condemnation?

Who is someone in your life that you have judged but instead need to look on with the mercy and grace of Jesus? How will you seek the Spirit to change your heart toward this person?