

Identity

Series: I Became a Christian and All I Got Was This Lousy T-Shirt

Week One: Small Group Questions

Correlates with Chapters 1-5

1. Have you ever had a nickname? What was it? How did you get it? Did you like it?
2. In chapter 4 of the book *I Became a Christian and All I Got Was This Lousy T-Shirt*, the author discusses his struggles to feel loved and wanted by God because he had grown up not feeling loved and wanted.
 - a. Do you think this is a common problem for Christians? Why or why not?
 - b. Have you had this (or a similar) problem in your own life?
3. The Bible teaches us that the moment a person becomes a Christian, he or she receives the identity of Jesus. From that moment on, that person is “in Christ,” and that is how God sees him or her. That being true, what do you think makes it so difficult for Christians to accept their new identity?
4. Read Colossians 3:1–12.
5. In verses 1–2 we’re encouraged to set our hearts and our minds on “things above.”
 - a. What do you think it means to set our hearts and minds on things above?
 - b. Why do you think this is so significant, especially in regard to living out our true identity?
 - c. Do you believe there’s any difference between setting your “heart” and setting your “mind” on things above? If so, what might it be?
6. Verse 3 tells Christians that they have died and their life is hidden with Christ in God. What does this say to you about your new and true identity?
7. We’re challenged, in verse 5, to put some things to death. Since verse 3 teaches us that we’ve already died, what might it mean to put parts of our life to death? Why might it be necessary?
8. Verses 9 and 10 talk about taking off the old and putting on the new self and then being “renewed in knowledge.”
 - a. What do you think it means to be “renewed in knowledge”?
 - b. What place does knowledge play in our actually living out our new identities?
9. In this series we’re talking about *really* living the Christian life (rather than just wearing the T-shirt because we’ve missed out on the journey). Why do you think this issue of identity is so critical in our truly living the Christian life?
10. Do you think it’s possible that “identity issues” have been holding you back?
 - a. In what ways might that be true?
 - b. What do you need to do about that?

