

Philippians: Identity Check| Philippians 1: 1-11

- 1. THINK:** What comes to your mind when you speak of your identity? Make a list. What is the end of those identities if they are based on temporal things like appearance, job, status, etc.? How do you think you were trained to think that way? **DO:** Make a list of the frustrations you experience when you seek to maintain an identity based on temporal things. What are the things that are hard for you in trying to maintain it? (For example, if your identity is in your appearance, what does your life look like trying to look right for other people?)
- 2. THINK:** It is very common to claim an identity that makes much of us. Paul could have done that in his keeping of the law, but saw very clearly that the truths of the Gospel eclipsed that. What are some things common to man that we cling to that we feel makes us righteous or makes us acceptable to God? What are some things common that you use to do that? **DO:** What really do you have that makes you acceptable to God? How many items on a list could you come up with? Make a practice, sometimes daily, of laying them down, counting them as loss and instead taking up what Christ has done for you on the cross.
- 3. THINK:** Why is what Christ has accomplished for us so much better than working ourselves for our identity or even our acceptance by God? What is the end result of trusting in Christ instead of your own efforts? **DO:** Discuss with the group or with another how have you seen trusting in Christ for your identity played out in your own life and what difference does it make?
- 4. THINK:** What does the blood-bought identity that Christ has purchased for you do to your pride? What has to happen in your heart before you can truly believe what He has done and then live it out as you let go your temporal identity? **DO:** Practically speaking, what are some concrete practices you can do each day to celebrate the work of Christ and de-escalate your own works? In a world that wants to taut our accomplishments, how can you spiritually fight back? Think through and form a plan of how you'll respond and react when tempted to make much of you.
- 5. THINK:** What does rejoicing in Christ play such an important role each day of your life? If you count all your own workings as loss and that hurts sometimes, what is there to rejoice about? **DO:** Spend some extended time alone with the Lord this week. Bring these subjects to Him: hope, freedom, love, satisfaction, mercy, blessings and begin to recount, just you and He, how much what He has accomplished for you: at the cost of His life, but also at the cost of your own pride and self-effort. Meditate on the freedom you have in not having to build a case for yourself. Meditate on the eternal-ness of all these things, whereas your own

efforts prove failing and temporal. How many reasons can you think of to say "Rejoice" in your first words of the day and then throughout the day?

Action Points | LIVE|14

- Next Sunday, June 29, LIVE|14 opens. Spend some time as a group praying for this and that we see the maximum amount of participants joining a small group, either temporarily or permanently.
- Pick up your free copy (small group leaders only) of **WHO AM I**, by Jerry Bridges at the Resource area. Then, encourage everyone in your group to purchase a copy for \$6. This is a fantastic pre-read to get us ready for LIVE|14.
- Make sure and attend one LIVE|14 training session for LIVE leaders
 - Sundays, June 22, 29 and July 6 | Chapel | 11:30 a.m.
 - Tuesday, June 24 | Chapel | 7:00 p.m.
- Encourage all you know to sign up for a group beginning next Sunday.