

IDENTITY CRISIS
FINDING YOUR TRUE IDENTITY IN CHRIST
Journey Through The Book of Ephesians
Ephesians 1:1-3

⇒ **PENMANSHIP OF EPHESIANS**

PAUL'S BACKGROUND

➤ **ROMAN**

- Rome ruled the then known world.
- Paul was a Roman citizen.
- Paul's citizenship was a providential qualification for his role as a missionary to the Roman Empire.

➤ **JEWISH**

- Paul studied under Rabbi Gamaliel. **Acts 22:3**
- As a Pharisee Paul sought to live in faultless obedience to the Law. **Phil 3:6, 2 Cor 11:22**
- Paul's rabbinic background explains why he quotes the OT extensively.

➤ **HELLENISTIC**

- Examples of Greek style
- Paul lived in several Hellenistic cities after his conversion and before his missionary journeys.

➤ **CHRISTIAN**

- Paul was converted on the Damascus Road. **Acts 9, Gal 1:11-19**
- Paul preached the Christ whom he had previously persecuted.
- Paul was convinced that it was his distinctive mission to take the gospel to the Gentile nations.
- He preached justification by faith entirely apart from the Law.

IDENTITY= the qualities, beliefs, etc., that make a particular person or group different from others

⇒ **MISTAKEN IDENTITY**

I-Items

What many people own is their public way of projecting themselves. Cars, jewelry, furniture, homes, and more.

D-Duties

Some people want to be identified by their daily and weekly duties. Jobs, meetings, clubs, etc...

O-Others

Some people want to be identified in their relational connections. Family, political party, etc...

L-Longings

Some identify with longing for futuristic change and a preferable future, without focusing what God is doing now.

S-Sufferings

Suffering is apart of life! However, when we allow our suffering (pain, sickness, issues, past) to become our identity we miss God's plan for our lives.

⇒ **TWO WORDS GIVE BELIEVERS THEIR IDENTITY: IN CHRIST**

John 15:5, 2 Corinthians 5:17

Either our identity is in Christ or Idolatry!

I AM A SAINT

Ephesians 1:1

- ◆ **Saint**=Someone who has been set apart.
- ◆ **Sanctification**-The process of becoming more holy.

SANTIFICATION

- **Definitive Point In Time Sanctification**-This makes us saints solely of the work of Holy Spirit. We contribute nothing to this divine act. In this sanctification we are all equally sanctified.
 - ✓ We were dead in our own sins, but he made us alive. Eph 2:1, 4
 - ✓ We were under the power of Satan, but he rescued us. Acts 26:18
 - ✓ We were in the domain of darkness, but he delivered us. Col 1:13
 - ✓ Our minds were blinded by Satan, but he opened them to truth. 2 Cor 4:4-5
- **Progressive Sanctification**-This sanctification implies progress, growth, or maturity. This involves our effort and is empowered by the Holy Spirit. However, it will never be completed in this lifetime.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A SAINT

- **A SAINT IS SINFUL**-Rom 7:13-25

Sin=To miss the mark

Sin may explain some of your activity, it's not your identity!

- **A SAINT IS REMORSEFUL**-1 Tim 1:15, Rom 8:1

As saints mature in relationship with Jesus, they often see their sin more clearly and grieve deeply. Believers should have conviction not condemnation.

CONVICTION....	CONDEMNATION...
is from God	is from Satan
leads to life	leads to despair
ends in joy	ends in sorrow
makes us want to change	makes us believe we can't change
leads to new identity in Christ	leads to old identity in sin
brings specific awareness of a sin	brings vague uncertainty about sin
looks to Jesus	looks to self
is a blessing	is a burden

A SAINT IS HUMBLE-1 Cor 13:4, Prov 8:13

Sometimes saint's sin by becoming proud of the changes we've made and the things we've learned. Pride compares us to other sinners; humility compares us to our sinless Savior. We must remember we are sinners saved and kept by God's grace.