

Real ID – Week 2

Identity and Upheaval

Colossians 2:8–15; 3:12–13

I. Identity Influencers

We all long for...

- A. **Acceptance** – We yearn for belonging (to be truly known and accepted).
- B. **Affection** – We long for intimacy (to be fully known and loved).
- C. **Approval** – We strive for affirmation (to be completely known and appreciated).

Where do we look?

- Friend groups, appearance, careers, colleges, clubs, cars, causes, voices that tell us what we want to hear...
- *All externals – our identity becomes owned by others' perception.*

The lie we believe:

“What I do determines who I am.”

- But when we buy in, the results are devastating:
 - Want belonging → left isolated
 - Want love → left incomplete
 - Want affirmation → left unsatisfied and confused

What external and temporary things am I wrapping my identity around?

- *Is it working?*
- *Does it love me back?*
- *Will it last forever?*

*WHEN WHOSE WE ARE DETERMINES WHO WE ARE
IT WILL COMPLETELY RESHAPE HOW WE LIVE*

II. What Jesus Received from the Father (Matthew 3:13–17)

At His baptism – *before He ever did anything in his earthly ministry* – the Father spoke identity:

- A. *“This is my Son”* → Full **Acceptance**
- B. *“Whom I love”* → Full **Affection**
- C. *“With Him I am well pleased”* → Full **Approval**

God reminds Jesus of His identity first. Then Jesus went into the wilderness.

In Christ – the same words the Father spoke over Jesus are spoken over us:

“You are my son/daughter, whom I love, with you I am well pleased.”

III. What Christ Accomplished for Us (Colossians 2:8–15)

A. Our condition:

- “*You were dead in trespasses...*”
- Missing the mark, separated from God

B. What God did:

- “*God made alive together with Him*”
 - Restored relationship
 - Complete forgiveness – nailed to the cross
 - Debt canceled

C. The victory secured:

- “*Triumphing over rulers and authorities*”
- Jesus has already won – the enemy is disarmed

IV. Who We Are Shapes How We Live (Colossians 3:12–13)

Our secure identity:

- God’s **Chosen** → Acceptance
- God’s **Holy** → Approval
- God’s **Beloved** → Affection

So put on... (clothe yourself)

- Compassionate hearts
- Kindness
- Humility
- Meekness
- Patience
- Forbearance
- Forgiveness

Without Christ, upheaval makes us fight or flee.

In Christ, upheaval becomes the Spirit’s opportunity to transform us.

LIFEgroup Questions:

1. Where are you most tempted to find your acceptance, affection, or approval outside of Christ? How has that left you feeling—fulfilled or empty?
2. At Jesus’ baptism the Father declared, “*You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.*” How does it change your perspective to know those same words apply to you in Christ before you ever “do” anything for Him?
3. Share about a time of upheaval or difficulty in your life. How did God use it (or how might He be using it now) to bring your true identity to the surface?
4. Read Colossians 2:13–15 together. What words or phrases stand out to you most (“made alive,” “forgiven,” “nailed to the cross,” “triumphing”)? How do these truths give you confidence and security in your identity, even in seasons of upheaval?
5. Colossians 3 calls us to “put on” compassion, kindness, humility, patience, and forgiveness. Which of these is hardest for you to practice, and how can your group pray for and encourage you in that area?