



Key Scripture:

Ephesians 1:3–4 (ESV)

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

1 Peter 2:9–10 (ESV)

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

John 15:15–17 (ESV)

¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

Ephesians 2:4–7 (ESV)

⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 28:18–19 (NIV)

¹⁸[...] **"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.** ¹⁹Therefore go [...]

Discussion Questions:

In our culture individuals are encouraged to discover themselves and create a unique identity for themselves. **What is different about how God's people receive their identity?**

Reading Ephesians 1:3-4 what is the significance to you that you were chosen by God? In what ways do we have "every spiritual blessing?"

Mike on Sunday said: *"I believe that many of the issues in the church would cease if we truly understood who we are in Christ (our identity) and our value to Him".* **What do you think Mike meant by this?**

What different things do you see 1 Peter 2:9-10 saying about a Christian's identity? What does a priesthood do?

What happens if you go "on mission" for God without first being grounded in your identity in Him?

Have you ever tried to do things for God without putting your relationship and identity with Him first? What happened?

In John 15:15-16 Jesus is speaking to His disciples just before He goes to the cross. **What is significant in these two verses about how Jesus sees us? What about how God provides for us while on mission? Can we really ask for anything?**

How does a proper understanding of identity manifest itself in a Christian's authority and confidence?

Based on the scriptures mentioned previously, shouldn't Christians be the most confident people ever? Why do we struggle with a lack of confidence?

Mike titled his preach "Identity and Authority". **As a Christian can you have authority without first proper identity?**

Why do we find ourselves struggling with having spiritual authority?

What areas of your spiritual walk do you need to move from a place of timidity to a position of authority? What's going to need to happen for that to take place?

Doubt, worrying and fear are things that rob us from properly stepping into a place of spiritual authority. **What can you do to defeat these things? How frequently do we need overthrow these things?**