

DISCOVERING MY IDENTITY

QUESTION: Is who you are determined by what you do, or is what you do determined by who you are?

Problem with DOers:

- 1). Life circumstances are always changing:
- 2). We can never do enough.

When our identity is in Christ...3 things happen...

1. We have a Purpose

Matthew 3:13 (ESV) *Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.*

Why was Jesus baptized?

- 1). He was baptized because he wanted to obey God in every aspect of his life.
- 2). He wanted to confess, not His sin, but the sin on behalf of the nation.
- 3). To further the work and mission of God.
- 4). To inaugurate His public ministry. Give it a kick start.
- 5). To identify with the people repenting, with their human-ness.
- 6). Give us an example to follow in obedience to the Father.

Before, I **WAS...** (Religious...Gal 1:13-14):

- Born a Jew
- A Roman citizen
- Circumcised on the eighth day
- Of the tribe of Benjamin
- A Pharisee
- Persecutor of the church
- Zealous for the tradition of my ancestors

Now, I **AM...** (a Christian...Phil. 3:4-6)

- An apostle of Christ
- An apostle to the Gentiles
- A new person, everything is worthless
- A follower of Jesus, my ancestry and ethnic background is not who I am
- A prisoner of Jesus
- A servant to others

Before, I **WAS...**

- Broken (Rom 3:10-18)
- A sinner (Rom. 3:23)
- Living for myself (Eph 2:3)
- Not living for Christ (Rom 1:21-2:1)
- A mess (Rom 7)
- Dead (Eph 2:1)

Now, I **AM...**

- Forgiven (Eph 1:6-8)
- Reconciled (Rom. 5:10)
- Rescued (1 Tim. 2:5-6)
- Redeemed (Col. 1:14)
- Bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)
- Known by God (Rom. 8:29)

2. We want to go Public.

¹⁶ *And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him*

3. We are God's child.

¹⁷ *and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*