



SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2024

Sermon Title: Identity - The Power of Christ

Bible Reading: Ephesians 1: 15-23

Preacher: Stephen Beaumont

Psychologists tell us that our identity encompasses experiences, relationships and values that create one's sense of self – and that new facets can be developed and incorporated into one's identity over time. This resonates with the Biblical Truth that we are on a journey of transformation (walk of faith) restoring the broken imago dei and forming a new identity "In Christ."

The challenge is what does that mean practically for us, and how does it happen?

Fortunately, Paul's letter to the Ephesians provides a practical application to his many grand statements of our new identity.

The press and grind of daily life provide us with opportunities to incorporate new facets of our faith journey (experiences, relationships and values) into that emerging new identity.

Two Big Questions this sermon addressed was:

1. What the heck does that even mean to say I am "In Christ"?
What am I implying? What am I experiencing? Is it enough to wear a label without proof?
2. How is that even possible knowing our weaknesses and limitations?

Whether we are predisposed towards self-loathing or self-righteous, working out the lived experience of being in Christ is our daily challenge.

Being in Christ is both a position and a posture - when we actively and intentionally seek to incorporate our growing understanding of Christ into our experience, we are living "In Him".

Group Reflection

Do you have a predisposition towards brokenness or blinded by our pride, and how might this impact your openness to grow “In Christ”?

Knowing our limits and brokenness, the only way to really grow in our identity in Christ is through wisdom and revelation That exactly what Paul prayer for the Ephesians.

He also gave a great big Shout-Out to them, for they were already bold in faith and showing love for each other. But Paul wasn't satisfied, he prayed for more.

What would it mean to you if “the eyes of your heart” were more enlightened to know:

1. The hope to which he has called?
2. The richness of his glorious inheritance?
3. Incomparably great power?

Who does it mean for you to have more hope?

What would it mean for you to have more power?

What would it be like to belong to a church community that:

- Always lifted you up.
- That got alongside of you and cheered your victories.
- That stood beside you in your failings.
- That prayed regularly for you that the eyes of your heart may be opened.

As a life group you may wish to spend some time praying for each other.