

Knowing Yourself

Various Scriptures

"If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle."-Sun Tzu, The Art of War

How would you define yourself? Do you know who you are?

According to the Bible, those who reject God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ are identified as being in bondage to _____ and _____. They also face judgement and separation from God for eternity. **John 8:34; Romans 6:23**

On the other hand, those who accept God's plan of salvation, through the blood of Jesus Christ are identified as being free to live a _____ in _____. They look forward to eternal life in heaven with God forever. **Galatians 2:20; Romans 6:4; 2 Corinthians 5:17**

Last week we defined our true enemy as _____. In doing so we examined his character, nature and ultimate cause of his fall, pride. Today we will unpack who we are as human beings and redeemed children of God.

Natural Man

What do you think is the most important aspect to know about our nature as human beings? Hint: **Psalms 51:5-6**

From a natural perspective it is imperative we understand that we are born as _____. You and I alone are no match for Satan and the primary reason is because of sin and pride in our _____. Where do we see weaknesses?

* _____ **Matthew 26:41**

* _____ **Romans 7:15-20**

* _____ **Jeremiah 17:9**

In light of this truth we must trust God to heal us from the inside by purifying our hearts. **Psalm 51:10-12**

Discussion:

Anyone can talk about how good they are at something, but why is it so difficult to open up to God and others about our weaknesses? Is God showing you some areas in your life that need His attention? Write them down and if you're willing, ask someone to join you in praying to God for deliverance.

The Bible says the natural man is...

Hardened in his/her heart

Spiritually blind

_____ bankrupt

1 Corinthians 2:14; John 14:17

The sad reality is, if we stay in the dark ignoring the symptoms of our natural tendencies, there's no way of truly identifying our enemy and winning the battle for our soul. **Psalm 34:17-18**

Spiritual Man

What do you think is the most important aspect to know about our spiritual existence in relation to God? Hint: **Hebrews 11:6**

From a spiritual perspective, we are brought into a right relationship with God the Father by being _____ again. (**John 3:3**) When we place our faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior we become physically and spiritually connected to God now and forever in eternity. Notice how our **faith** in Jesus Christ shapes our identity.

Believe and receive these verses in your heart.

By Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ I am...

- 1) A child of God **John 1:12-13; 1 John 3:1; 2 Corinthians 6:17-18**
- 2) Chosen by God **Ephesians 1:4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:4**
- 3) Valuable **Genesis 9:6; Ephesians 2:10**; All too often so many of us waste precious time worrying about what _____ people think of us. We want to be valued, loved, respected, and admired, but why should we base our identity and self-worth on the opinions of others who are flawed themselves? The _____ opinion that matters is what God says about you.
- 4) Redeemed **1 Peter 1:18-19; Ephesians 1:7**
- 5) New creation **2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:20-24**; Through His salvation, we gain an altogether _____ identity and a whole _____ life.
- 6) His friend **John 15:15**; Through a relationship with Jesus, God _____ His heart with us.
- 7) His ambassador **2 Corinthians 5:20; Ephesians 6:20; Acts 1:8**; What does it mean to you to be an ambassador of Christ? Hint: **Galatians 5:13**
- 8) A member of the Body of Christ **Ephesians 3:6; Ephesians 5:30**
- 9) Loved **John 3:16-17; Romans 8:31-39**
- 10) Saint **1 Corinthians 1:2; Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:2**
Regardless of our struggles in life, ministry, etc, we who are walking by faith in Jesus Christ are Saints.

Discussion:

Now that you have a better understanding of who are as a natural and spiritual being, how does this encourage you? What is your biggest take away from this study? How will you apply in your life right now?

Our identity is affected less and less by what we produce and more and more by what we consume. -Pete Sanders

What are you consuming that is robbing you of your true identity?

Remember, there's a battle going on for your heart, soul and mind. Our enemy will do everything in his power to distract us from receiving what God has in store for us.

Our challenge for the remainder of this week is to meditate on **Galatians 5:16-17; Galatians 6:8**. In your prayer time, ask the Lord for forgiveness in those areas of life/ministry where you have been feeding your fleshly desires and ignoring His command to be filled with the Spirit. Then pray and ask God to reveal some ways you can sow into the Holy Spirit and be used for His glory.