**EQUIP – 4**

May the people raise you, O God. Then the earth will yield its harvests.

1. Who We Are

A discipleship journey which continues with our identity in Christ and the renewed mind having been made whole by Christ.

**MEETING EXPECTATIONS:**

1. Respect each other’s privacy

(do not ask for contact number, no business transactions)

2. Honor the vision of this church

(do not promote or invite to other church events and programs)

3. Humility and Order

(humble despite disagreements. Other questions can be discussed after the class)

**SHARING:**

Your greatest battle is knowing your identity, and not doubting who you are.

Since the fall, there is an identity crisis in mankind – a struggle of who am I, what was I meant for and where do I fit in.

The question uses “I” alot and references the human tendency to be consumed with self: self-gains, self-glory, self-serving and self-need. It is a narcissistic tendency and a selfish one. Perhaps it may even be due to the need of survival.

The key to knowing who you are is to see who we are in Christ.

You don’t have to prove your worth. Do not associate your value with who you are or what you do. You are as fully accepted as Christ is. Your value was already determined 2000 years ago in Christ.

We find our identity through Christ first, knowing we are already beloved and well-pleasing in Christ.

Romans 8:4

What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? NIV

John Piper said this:

“Who am I? Who are you? You are a God-chosen one, a God-pitied one, a God-possessed one, a God-sanctified one. We got our identity from God. In fact, our identity is our relation to God. We are chosen by God.

In other words, He has given us our identity in order that His identity might be proclaimed through us. God made us who we are so we could make known who He is. Our identity is for the sake of making known His identity. The meaning of our identity is that the excellency of God be seen in us.”

Being consumed with our own life will not lead anywhere. We find our identity through God because we learn that we are His children.

As His children, we are created in His image, we are called according to His promise, and we are so loved by Him.

We understand this through our relationship with Christ in that He loves us so much that He took up the cross, paying the penalty of sin which is death for us.

Salvation is a revelation of the loving heart of God.

The Father, moved with compassion, determined from all eternity to send His only Son into the world to redeem men. The Son, in the fullness of time, came into the world, taking upon Himself human nature and redeeming men by His holy life and innocent death. And the Holy Ghost applies Christ’s redemption to the souls of men by bringing them through the means of grace to a state of repentance and faith, and thus to sonship with God.

We now have a Christ-marked identity:

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. NIV

Regeneration, like conversion and repentance or change of mind, is a Scriptural term describing what has taken place in the man who has been brought to faith in Christ.

To repent does not mean to put all focus on our sins alone. To repent is to “turn back” or to have a “change of mind.”

It is a resolve to walk in a new way as a new man in Christ.

As a new man, we are born again. This does not mean that he has been in any way changed in his essence as a man, but that he has been made over with respect to his spiritual state and powers. He has not received a new ego.

But that side of him, namely the spiritual, which hitherto was dead, has been made alive. He is a new kind of man. He is a new man in the sense that his attitude, mind, direction, disposition and aspirations have been totally changed.

Turning To God

Luke 13:3 I tell you no, but unless you repent, you too will all perish.

Repentance means “to turn around or to go another way in a totally different direction.” It implies to turn away from a sinful way of living to God. This “about turn” must involve every part of our being – body, soul (emotion, mind and will) and spirit.

Repentance:

1. Recognizes sin as the root problem

Calling it what it is and admitting to move forward to new things

2. Examine ourselves thoroughly and honestly

Self-awareness and see if it runs counter with the Scripture.

3. Involves emotion and will

To realize deep within our hearts that the sin committed grieved God.

Repentance, to put it simply is to be sorry enough to stop sinning.

Adapted from resources:

Kingdom Series Bible Study by Joshua Yee

The Christian Faith by Joseph Stump

Roots and Wings by Edmund Chan

**DISCUSSION**:

Objectives of discussion:

Deeper thought learning

Interactive and Engaging

Going slow to build strong foundations

A. Vanities (Ecclesiastes 2:3-11)

1. How does the writer view life and its pursuits?

2. What is the most important lesson that he learned from the experience?

3. At your present state in life, what are you busy with? What do you think you should do with this and why?

4. What is a key takeaway you learnt from this verse?

B. Loving The World (1 John 2:15-17)

1. What are the 3 expressions of “loving the world”?

2. Why is it so hard to let go of “loving the world”?

3. What can grow us from “loving the world” to “loving God”?

4. What is a key takeaway you learnt from this verse?

5. What are some new insights and revelations you learnt today?

C. A New Identity (2 Peter 1:3-10)

1. What is supposed to take plan in our new identity?

2. What are the virtues we are to grow in as God’s children? Hasn’t He already made us whole?

3. How can pride keep us from growing more in God? What else can keep us from growing?

4. What is a key takeaway you learnt from this verse?

5. What are some new insights and revelations you learnt today?

D. Repentance (Revelations 2:1-7)

1. What is repentance supposed to achieve?

2. What are the practices of the Nicolaitans?

3. What happens when we return to God?

4. What is a key takeaway you learnt from this verse?

5. What are some new insights and revelations you learnt today?