

spiritual infant

DISCIPLE ME

**THE ONE ABOUT IDENTITY:
PART 1: I NO LONGER LIVE**

ICEBREAKER: THE BACKPACK QUESTION

Imagine your life is a backpack. What are three things (qualities, experiences, relationships) that you're carrying right now that shape how you see yourself? Using the things in your "backpack," how would you answer the question, "Who are you?"

READ & WATCH: WHO AM I

Identity matters because it touches everything—how we see ourselves, how we relate to others, and how we make sense of our place in the world. It's easy to let things like our job, our past, or what people say about us define who we are. But deep down, most of us are asking the same questions: *Who am I, really? Do I matter? Where do I belong?*



The beautiful thing is, God doesn't leave us guessing. He invites us to discover who we truly are - not by what we've done or what's been done to us, but by who He says we are. Using the QR code to the right, take a moment to consider more about who God says you are.

STUDY: CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

In Galatians chapter 2, the Apostle Paul is writing to a group of new believers about the importance of identity. And he wants to remind them that being right with God doesn't come from following a bunch of religious rules – it comes from putting your faith and trust in Jesus.

He even shares a story about a time when he had to confront Peter about his behavior. Peter was one of Jesus' closest friends and followers. He was such an important figure that Jesus called Peter "the rock" on which He would build the church. So, it's surprising to learn about Paul having to rebuke and correct Peter.

However, what caused Paul to speak up was that when certain people showed up in Jerusalem, Peter started to change his behavior. Before they arrived, he shared fellowship and ate with the Gentiles (the non-Jewish people), but when these strict religious Jews showed up, Peter stopped eating with the Gentiles and began to indirectly communicate that they weren't fully accepted unless they followed all the Jewish customs. Paul had a problem with this because he believed it went against the truth of the Gospel.

Paul wanted everyone to understand that we're not accepted by God because of what we do, but because of what Jesus has done for us. And to drive his point home at the end of this section, he wrote these words:

²⁰I 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.

Read this verse a few times, and then discuss the questions below.

DISCUSS:

- What do you think it means to let your "old self" die with Christ? Are there parts of your past identity that you've already let go of? Are there any parts of your past identity that you feel like you may still need to let go of?
- How does the idea that Christ now lives in you change the way you see yourself or how you live each day?
- Here, Paul talks about living a new kind of life, now that your identity is in Christ. What might that look like in your day-to-day routines? How might it affect your life at work, at home, or in your social communities?
- What does living "by faith" mean to you right now? Are there any examples of how you are currently putting your trust and faith in Jesus?
- Are there any areas of your life where trusting Jesus feels challenging or difficult?
- Paul closes by saying, "I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." How does it feel to know that Jesus loves you and that He was willing to lay down His life for you? How does this impact how you view yourself?

CHALLENGE: CHRIST IN ME & THROUGH ME

- This week, spend time intentionally focusing on your identity in Christ, instead of your past, your performance, or what others think about you. Follow the steps below, and recap at your next discipleship gathering.
 - Create a note in your phone or a list that you can add to throughout the week. Start by writing Galatians 2:20 in your own words at the top of the list.
 - Each day this week, start with this prayer, *"Jesus, because You live in me, what do You want to do through me today?"*
 - At the end of the day, write down anything you did that looked like and felt like Jesus