

Jesus and Identity

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Week 1, Devotion 1

“In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” — Matthew 5:16

When was the last time you played a video game and thought to yourself, “Wow, the person who wrote the code for this game was incredible”? Or what about the last time you watched TV and thought, “The electricity that powers my TV is awesome”? Chances are, you haven’t had this experience very often, if ever. In most cases, we don’t really think about the source of the thing we’re enjoying. We’re too busy enjoying it.

But Jesus’ words in Matthew 5:16 point to the fact that this may not be the case when it comes to how other people see our lives.

Look, people notice your actions. If you live a life committed to God, people will notice. And here’s the cool part: they’ll know something is different about you. They’ll see your life, and they’ll be curious about what makes you different. And this curiosity will lead them to God.

You have the opportunity to draw people to God simply by the things you do and say. The opposite is true, as well. If you identify as a Christ-follower, yet live your life as if knowing Christ has never really changed you, then you can turn people away from God.

What will you choose? Will your identity point people toward God? Or away from Him?

Week 1, Devotion 2

“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.” — Philippians 1:27

Paul wrote Philippians 1:27 to the Christ-followers in the city of Philippi. He was helping them see that part of their identity as Christ-followers meant living in ways that lined up with Jesus’ message and mission. The same is true for us today.

The Gospel message is one of hope and redemption. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus fixes the brokenness in people and in the world. Part of your identity as a Christ-follower is to live your life in such a way that shares this message with the world.

How do you do that? Good question.

Today, stop for a moment and think of how you can be a messenger for the Gospel in your life today. Think about some practical ways you can make a difference in the following categories:

- Your interactions with your friends.
- Your interactions with your teachers.
- The way you speak to people you might not be close friends with.
- Acts of kindness you can do for others.
- Ways you can stand up for those who need standing up for.

Week 1, Devotion 3

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.” — Matthew 5:14

What does light do to darkness? It drives it away, right? It destroys it. A small light can light up the darkest of rooms. Darkness cannot exist when light is present.

Jesus said that you are light in the midst of a dark world. Why is the world dark? Sin. Sin and evil make the world dark in places. But the light of Christ in you drives out sin and darkness. Your identity is that of a light-bringer.

Today, think about this thought: Jesus sees you as one of His sources of light. You are part of Jesus' plan to drive out darkness in His creation.

How does this make you feel?

Talk to God today in prayer about your desire to be part of His plan. Thank Him for choosing you. Ask Him to help you stay strong when you get the opportunity to be light. Praise Him for saving you from the darkness in your life.