



Sermon Notes: Be Who You Are

1. The Pictures of Your Identity.

- a. Living stones of God's spiritual house.
- b. A holy and royal priesthood.
- c. A new people who belong to God.

2. The Peculiarities of Your Identity.

- a. Collective, not individual.
- b. Received, not achieved.
- c. Revered, not rejected.
- d. Diverse, not homogenous.
- e. Christ-referential, not self-referential.

3. The Purpose of Your Identity.

- a. To build your life on the foundation of Christ.
- b. To worship a God who is present and active.
- c. To proclaim the excellencies of Christ.

4. The Practice of Your Identity.



Gospel Applications: Be Who You Are

1. In our culture, what are some common markers or categories of identity? What do people seek their identity/significance in?
2. What is the negative "I am . . ." statement you tell yourself most frequently? What is the positive "I am . . ." statement you tell yourself most frequently? What are the basic identity narratives you rehearse inside your own head?
3. How do your self-identity statements make you feel when you succeed? How about when you fail? How about when you sin, and you know it?
4. People often think of Church as nothing more than a service to attend. By contrast, who/what is the Church in each of the three pictures of your identity? What are some implications of this for your everyday life?
5. Review the five peculiarities of your identity. Which of these is hardest for you to believe and practice? Which is easiest? How would you like to see the Church grow in living out the truth of one or more of these?
6. What are some practical ways to live out your basic Christian identity as part of a community of believers, rather than as a spiritual Lone Ranger?
7. If you really believed your identity and significance are received (by free grace), not achieved, what practical difference would it make in your life?
8. Building your life on the foundation of Christ obviously includes the decision to trust in him in the first place. But what are some practical ways to build on his foundation in everyday life? What are some substitute foundations you observe yourself or others building on instead?
9. Sharing the beauty of Christ with others is not just one more command to obey, it is the purpose of our identity. So what? What difference will that make this week as you have opportunities to represent Christ to others?
10. What one thing will you do this week to live out of the hope of your Gospel identity? Be specific!