

Joy



DISCOVERING JOY

THROUGH PHILIPPIANS

SESSION 9: JOY IN IDENTITY

SERIES OVERVIEW:

“Joy. It’s not getting what you want; it’s appreciating what you have. Joy isn’t always the easiest choice or the obvious choice, but joy is a choice. The Apostle Paul said, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, rejoice!” And his life is louder than his words. Paul writes his letter to the Philippians from a prison cell. You can choose joy anywhere, anytime, anyway!”



Today we are considering what it means for us to have our identity given by and found in Christ.

READ: 1 PETER 2:1-10

Knowing how God sees us and who He says we are is foundational to our existence in the world – how we live, how we feel, what we think of ourselves and others, the choices we make, the relationships we have, how we pursue purpose.

One of the mysteries of the Christian life is that when we give our lives to Jesus, we are born into new life with Him and in Him, and we come to share in the very identity of Jesus.

What are the biggest barriers or issues surround ‘identity’ in our current culture? You may want to write these down on a large piece of paper.

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What does the gospel of Christ have to say about these things? Read the passage again. What difference does it make to your everyday life that God says you are:

- **Chosen**
- **Part of a royal priesthood**
- **Holy**
- **God’s special possession**
- **Called out of darkness into God’s wonderful light**
- **Called to be a spiritual house**

P R A Y

Reflect: Are there any parts of your identity (i.e. how you see yourself, things that you feel define you, experiences or narratives) that you sense God is wanting to heal, so that you can step into your Christ-given identity? In prayer, bring these before God, and ask him to restore Christ's image in you.

Holy Spirit, make my heart open to the word of God, make my heart open to goodness, make my heart open to the beauty of God every day. God, thank you for giving me constant access to your presence. Because you are always with me, I can experience true joy at all times. Although the joy you give isn't based on my circumstances, I don't always live a life marked by joy. Too often, instead of trusting you, I let my problems dictate my reactions. Please forgive me. Fill me with your joy and peace, so that by the power of your Holy Spirit, I may abound in hope at all times. Help me to live a life marked by undefeatable joy. In Jesus' name, Amen.

