

Who Are You?

Week 10: March 5-11 – *Luke 8, 10, 11; John 7, 8*

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Helpful Resources

Map of Palestine in the Time of Christ

Making Sense of It All

- The Big Picture

Jesus continued teaching in and around Jerusalem. Then, He sent 70 of His followers into surrounding cities, tasking them to tell others about the Messiah and His good news of salvation. We also read several familiar and much-beloved stories, such as Jesus' response to the adulterous woman and her accusers, the Parable of the Good Samaritan, and Jesus' visit to the home of Martha and Mary. Meanwhile, Jesus not only continued to defend His identity, He also challenged and encouraged His followers to know their identity. In this review, we will consider who the Lord was (and is) and who He said we are (or should be) in Him.

- Identity Defined

The word *identity* literally means "sameness." When someone asks to see your I.D. (identification), it verifies that you are the same person. An identity can also refer to the condition or qualities that identify a person, a set of distinguishing characteristics by which someone is recognized or known (i.e., appearance, personality, family, occupation, etc.).

STOP: Think of eight ways to describe Jesus to someone who does not know Him.

- Who Is He?

Several times this week someone asked Jesus, "Who are you?" (*John 8:25, 53*). He said, "You will die in your sins unless you believe who I say that I am" (v.24). So, who is Jesus?

1. **Merciful, Forgiving Savior** (*John 9:1-11*): When the adulterous woman was brought to Jesus for judgment, He did not condemn her but showed her mercy and forgiveness.
2. **The Light of the World** (*John 8:12*): Jesus is the only way out of spiritual darkness. Apart from Him, we are forever enslaved to sin and judged to eternity apart from God.
3. **Not of This World** (*John 8:23*): Though Jesus was human, He came from heaven.
4. **From the Father** (*John 8:42*): Jesus was not here on His own, rather He was sent by His Father. He spoke on His Father's behalf and redeemed those whom He was given.
5. **Pleasing to God** (*John 8:29*): Jesus is the only person who has fulfilled the requirements of the Law. He is sinless, perfect, and holy. Everyone else falls short of the glory of God.
6. **Authority Over Everything** (*Luke 10:22*): Jesus is Lord of heaven and earth.

7. **Answers Prayer** (*Luke 11:13*): Because of Christ, we have access to God the Father, to speak with Him and share our thoughts, feelings, desires, and needs.
8. **I Am** (*John 8:56-59*): Jesus is God in the flesh, for He and the Father are One. Therefore, He not only knew Abraham, He also existed long before Abraham, for eternity past.
9. **Stronger Than Satan** (*Luke 11:21-22*): Jesus casted out demons, "binding the strong man." Satan and his angels are created beings, over which the Creator has authority.
10. **Greater Than Jonah and Solomon** (*Luke 11:14-28*): Jesus is superior to all.

- Who Are We?

STOP: Think of eight ways that you would describe yourself to someone you've never met.

We often identify ourselves in ways that are negative or unhealthy. In fact, the view that we have of ourselves is often skewed. We also believe what others say about us. It is most important to know and believe how God sees us. Our identity is in Him. So, who are we?

1. **Forgiven and Clean** (*John 8:1-11*): Because of Christ, our sins are forgiven. When God sees us, He sees the image of His Son. We are clear of condemnation (*Rom. 8:1, 2*).
2. **Know Truth** (*John 8:31, 32*): Christ's teaching is truth. His truth not only sets us free from sin and death, but it also frees us from the enemy's lies.
3. **Free** (*John 8:34-36*): Because of Christ, we are no longer enslaved to sin! Because He has set us free from sin, let us live in such a way that exhibits freedom.
4. **Workers in the Harvest** (*Luke 10:1, 2*): We've been sent into the fields to save souls. Each of us has a part to play in the ministry and mission of Christ (*Matt. 28:19, 20*).
5. **Lambs Among Wolves** (*Luke 10:3*): The enemy wants to discourage and destroy us. We must be aware we are soldiers in a spiritual war. We are always on duty (*1 Pet. 5:8, 9*).
6. **Crushing Snakes and Scorpions** (*Luke 10:18, 19*): Because of Christ and the power of His indwelling Spirit, we can overcome enemy strongholds and strategies.
7. **Citizens of Heaven** (*Luke 10:20*): Because of Christ, our names are registered in the Lamb's Book of Life, and we will spend eternity with Him in heaven.

The Bottom Line

Our identity is in Christ, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else.

Questions to Consider

1. The list above is not exhaustive. What are some other aspects of your identity in Christ?
2. What are the eight ways that you described yourself?
3. How does your view of yourself compare to how Christ sees you?
4. How does knowing who you are in Christ affect your thoughts, attitudes, and actions?
5. With whom did you identify in the Parable of the Good Samaritan? Explain.
6. With whom did you identify in the story of Martha and Mary?