

BECOMING WHO YOU ALREADY ARE

EPHESIANS 1 | ERIC SIMPSON | MARCH 8, 2020

“When we are who we are called to be, we will set the world ablaze.” – St. Catherine

“Start with who God says you are and work forward from there.” – Bob Goff

Step 1: Your identity is received from beyond you, not created by you.

Step 2: See yourself as God sees you in Jesus.

Ephesians 1:1-10

“in Christ” = en Christo (Greek) = incorporation, what is true about Jesus is true about you

“When Paul speaks to us as being ‘in Christ’ the center of what he means is that...the king represents his people so what happens to him happens to them and what is true of him is true of them. Think of David fighting Goliath; David was representing Israel. He had already been anointed as king, and it was long after his victory before people realized...that he was the one to lead Israel into God’s future. So it is with us: Jesus has won the decisive victory over the oldest and darkest enemy of all, and if we are ‘in him’, ‘in the king’, ‘in Christ’ then we shall discover step by step what that means.” – N.T. Wright

What if we stopped defining ourselves by what we did wrong and started defining ourselves by what Christ has done right?!

What if we stopped defining ourselves by the things done to us and started defining ourselves by what Christ has done for us?!

“Our future—who we are becoming, where we are going—matters more than our past—where and who we have been. Our future has more power to name us and define us than our past. Consummation swallows origins. Destiny, not history, is the ultimate ground of our identity. How does a prostitute named Rahab, a Moabite outsider named Ruth, an incestuous schemer named Tamar, an adulteress named Bathsheba, end up in the birth line of Jesus? Because in God’s economy the person we become, not the person we have been, is the person we truly are.” – Mark Buchanan

Getting a handle on your false-self:

- **Where do I find myself getting defensive? Overly sensitive? Touchy?**
- **What qualities irritate me in others?**
- **What do I tend to be compulsive about? Excessive attachments?**

Philippians 3:4-8 (twenty-five years after his encounter with Jesus on the Damascus road)

This week...

1. Have a conversation with a friend about this message.
2. Reflect on those questions about the false-self.
3. Read *Ephesians 1:1-10* several times.