

_____ **ONE - Study of Ephesians** _____

Part 5 - Our Identity

How many of us realise that our identity has power?

Philippians 3:8

Ephesian 1:4

Ephesians 3:17b-18, "I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ." (NIV)

What's your name?

Power of Identity: #1 Revise our Perspective

Ephesians 3:1-6

The power of Paul's identity enabled him to revise his perspective.

(a) Paul had a *past*: "Surely you heard about my past..." (2)

(b) Paul in the *present*: "In reading this you'll understand..." (4)

(c) Paul had a *future*: "We are heirs of a promise in Christ" (6)

Power of Identity: #2 Remember the Call

Ephesians 3:7-13

Verse 7, "I became a servant of this gospel"

Verse 8 "to preach to the Gentiles"

Verse 13, "My sufferings for your glory..."

Power of Identity: #3 Renew Your Strength

Ephesians 3:14-19

Power of Identity: #4 Rejoice in Worship

Ephesians 3:20-21

Group Guide Discussion

1. How has your identity in Christ helped shaped or empower the way you think about your past, act in the present, or hope in the future?

2. Paul was writing from prison yet there is a sense of joy and meaningfulness within his letter. Consider a difficult situation or question you might be facing. How does your identity in Christ influence the way you might respond within your situation.

3. Paul encourages the Ephesians in 3:16 to be strengthened by the power of God's Spirit so Christ would dwell in our hearts. What practices or habits help you do this? Have there been particular times you have experienced the love of Christ dwelling in your heart?

4. As Paul reflected of the love of God for us he felt lead to worship, to sing His praises (3:20-21). Take a moment to reflect on God's love in your own life and talk about the difference it has made.

Take time to rejoice and remember why Jesus really is good news and pay attention to what God's love inspires within you. What difference might people see in you tomorrow because of the love of God you have experienced today?