



SERMON OUTLINE

Sunday April 18th, 2021

New Identity in Christ

Pastor David Cooke

- **Who Am I?**
- **Who Are You?**

- **The Identity of Jesus**
Matthew 3:13–17, NLT
 - The Beloved of God
 - The One who brings great joy

- **The Front Lines of the Spiritual Battle**
Galatians 2:20 (ESV) 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

- **Transformed**
 - Paul's Story Acts 9:17–20 (NLT)

Our primary identity is not as a “Christian”.
It is “**I am the Beloved of God because of Jesus.**”
“**I am a follower of Jesus.**”

- **Three Things of Paul's Message**
 1. **Jesus Is For Everyone**
Matthew 28:18–20 (NLT)

 2. **Jesus Offers A New Identity**
Galatians 2:20 (ESV)
 - This is Good News, NOT good advice.
 - This is not behavior modification
 - Behavior and Action Come From Identity

 3. **The Gospel Changes Everything - Not Just Individual Lives**

*“Early Christianity spread, yes because the message was effective, yes because the person of Jesus was attractive, but perhaps most because Christians were **simply there**, in a not very well organized, not too systematic way, Christians were simply there to do acts of kindness, humanity, outreach in situations where Roman culture did not smile favourably on that kind of person-to-person, group-to-group outreach.”* Rodney Stark

- **How Jesus Transforms**

- How We Are “**Just There**”

1. Nomadic Shelter
2. ReGen
3. For ElDoCo
4. Children and Youth
 - Downtown Washing Windows
 - Youth Football and Ultimate Frisbee
5. Supporting Leo Cooper in supporting veterans
6. Community Care
 - El Dorado County Office of Education
 - Check out our podcast of stories!!
7. Regular Giving Supports Presence
 - Being The Gathered People of God
8. Mission Partnerships

- **How Can You Experience The Jesus Who Transforms**

Don't Get Bored With Jesus!

I. Know

- A. ALPHA Online
- B. Bible Study
- C. Life Groups

II. Experience

- A. Go To Church - Be In Community
- B. Sing The Songs
- C. Pray using the Bible App

III. Do

- A. Live it.
- B. Share it.

If your faith is convenient, it isn't faith and it is dying.

- Stop trying to be a Christian.
Be this: "I am the Beloved of God because of Jesus."
"I am a follower of Jesus."

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

We meet in Life Groups to **Connect**:

- Deeper with God and each other through prayer and relationship.
- The Bible to life.
- With our community through serving.

SERMON SERIES: **JESUS THE GAME CHANGER: To the Ends of the Earth**

Join us as we explore stories of vision, faith and sacrifice; and be challenged to take up the baton in our time.

Jesus the Game Changer Season 2. (2019). Grice. Olive Tree Media

THIS WEEK: "New Identity In Christ" (Episode 2)

Watch the weekend sermon: <http://www.coldspringschurch.net/sermons.html>.

Watch this week's episode: **Episode 2: Paul and the Early Church** (26:31min)
(Each week has an episode to watch with your group or prior to meeting).

GETTING STARTED

Jesus taught and practiced that all people mattered equally to God. Paul announced, "the idea that Christ died for all of humanity." The accompanying truth was that "there is no Jew or Greek" (Galatians 5:26-29), "...that difference is dissolved..." (T. Holland).

DISCUSSION

- 1. Jesus' ideas revolutionary when they emerged. How much do they still matter today to followers of Jesus, Western culture and the wider world?**
- 2. What do you think about Karl's 4 factors that he sees as important for the swift spread of Christian faith to the ends of the earth?**

- 1) The validity of Jesus' life
- 2) The evidence for him being the Son of God, not just a religious teacher
- 3) Jesus "sending" his followers into the world
- 4) The power of the Spirit in people's lives

Dana Robert considers the concept of a "network" or "chain" in the life of each of Jesus' followers, linking them, ultimately, back to Jesus, his people the Jews and his call from God.

3. Share the various chain links that have brought you to this point in your faith journey.

A key link in the chain that formed the spread of early Christianity was the radical conversion of Saul (Paul) from fanatical persecutor of Christians to passionate promoter of the faith.

4. Have you experienced the kind of “Damascus road” encounter that Paul experienced (Acts 9:1-19)? What is your response to the biblical story and/or your experience?

Pastor David spoke about 3 points to keep from getting “bored with Jesus: ‘Know, Experience, Do’.” He pointed out that, “If your faith is convenient, it isn’t faith and it is dying.”

5. How does the following question strike you: “When was the last time you lived your faith in such a way that you had to depend on Jesus because it was greater than you?”

ACTION

This weekend we heard that behavior and action come from identity (Galatians 2:20). Pastor David said, “Stop trying to be a Christian. Be this: ‘I am the Beloved of God because of Jesus. I am a follower of Jesus.’”

6. What difference does the above distinction make? What difference does the Gospel make?

Mark Noll quote:

“Early Christianity spread, yes because the message was effective, yes because the person of Jesus was attractive, but perhaps mostly because Christians were simply there... to do acts of kindness, humanity, outreach in situations where Roman culture did not smile favorably on that kind of person-to-person, group-to-group outreach.”

7. How will you be “just there” as the Beloved of God, a follower of Jesus?

Identify some “acts of kindness, humanity, outreach” you can practice this week individually and with others.