

Danger of Comparisons
Lesson 9– Our Identity in Christ: God’s View of Us
August 2, 2015

A. God’s View of Us

Starter Questions

- Who Am I in Christ? What does the Bible say about our identity in Christ?
- Do you wonder about God’s purpose for you?
- Has a feeling of inferiority impaired your ability to see your true potential self?
- Surely God did not make a mistake or forget something in your personality, make-up or skills?
- Why do we allow unnecessary comparisons to impair our relationship with Christ?

The Bible says that we are chosen by God and given a purpose. According to 1 Peter 2:9 it says, *"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness in to his wonderful light"*.

This is God's purpose for us. Often times we forget who we are and what God has done for us. Don't compare yourself to others and don't allow feelings of insecurity to rob you of your identity in Christ. It is important that we see ourselves the way God sees us and then live in obedience to Him. God knows who we really are. He loves us and created us.

B. Scriptures for Lesson:

Psalm 139:13-16

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

John 1:12-13

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Galatians 4:6-7

Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

1 Samuel 16:7

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Colossians 3:12

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Galatians 3:26-27

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Psalm 138:8

The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, O LORD, endures forever-do not abandon the works of your hands.

1 Thessalonians 1:4

For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction.

1 Corinthians 3:16

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

1 John 5:18

We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him.

2 Corinthians 5:17-19

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them.

C. Questions for Small Group Discussion:

1. Read Psalm 139 and think about your creation; with respect to our Identity in Christ and how we were made, what causes us to think negatively of ourselves?
2. "We are God's workmanship" and "Works of your hands", from Ephesians and Psalms respectively, what does this specifically mean?
3. 1 Samuel specifically talks about comparisons; Why do you think man focus on the external, but find it so hard to understand a person's heart and inside?
4. How can we spiritually translate being a child of God into better understanding of ourselves?
5. God wants us to understand and know our Self Identity and it is not one of failure or weakness; We are new creatures with a designed workmanship, plan, purpose and talents; Why do we ever wonder?