

Sermon Reflections

Do You Know Who You Are? (1 Corinthians 1:1–9)

Summary: Be Defined by Your God-given Identity

Know that your identity is defined by God. Two prompts to help you know your identity as a believer:

1. Be Reminded of Your God-defined Identity (vv. 1-3)

- As Christians, we are in God's family; we are God's people. This is seen even at the local/physical level in the local church (the church of God in Corinth; the church of God in Midlothian). How does church membership (tying in and committing to a local church) intersect with the Christian's identity?
- Christians are both sanctified in Christ and called to be saints. What is the relationship between God's holiness and sanctification? How have we been sanctified? (see Heb 10:14-17; 1 John 1:5-10) In what sense is 'saint' the Christian's identity? Why is sanctification necessary in the life of a believer? What does the process of ongoing sanctification look like in your life? (see James 2:18-26; 2 Peter 1:3-11; 1 John 4:7-21)
- Paul reminded the Corinthians of their identity because they had forgotten their identity as Christians. What areas in our lives cause us to forget our identities? What are some measures that we can take to avoid this? List some practical ways we can be reminded of our identity.

2. Be Complete in Your God-given identity (vv. 4-9)

- Paul's thankfulness was for God's grace in the lives of the Corinthians—despite the craziness going on in the Corinthian church. Why should we view other believers through the lens of God's grace? What are some specific ways we can remind ourselves of God's grace in the lives of believers?
- A Christian's identity is a gospel changed life. Yet, Christians repeatedly grab other identities and prioritize them wrongly. What are some identities that you have prioritized wrongly? What do these identities say about God's grace and the gospel?
- An eager desire for Christ's return is necessary for believers. How does an eagerness for Christ's return mark your life? What are the areas of your life that do *not* reflect an eagerness for Christ's return? What are some scriptures in both the OT and the NT that help you look forward to an eternity with God? (See Revelation 21-22... what other scriptures speak toward this?)
- A Christian is someone who has been given God's grace (v. 4), who has been enriched with spiritual treasures (vv. 5-7), who eagerly awaits the Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed (v. 7), who will stand shameless on that day (v. 8). How does God's faithfulness (v. 9) tie into this identity? How have you seen God's faithfulness in establishing your identity?