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Sunday, June 3, 2018  
Did You Know?

## A Word to Emerge (and Everyone Else)

Recently, I started an inductive Bible study specifically for our Emerge community (ages of 23 to 34) on 1 Corinthians. The city of Corinth was known for being morally corrupt. The Greeks had coined the term *corinthiazesthai* (meaning “to live a Corinthian life”) to describe the city’s immorality. Now, Paul learned that many of the believers in the Corinthian church were unwilling to divorce themselves from the culture around them. This resulted in disunity, pride, sexual perversion, and many other sins.

It’s interesting to note that to this sin-saturated, self-centered, and fractured community, the first thing Paul did was not rebuke them, share his disappointments, or even call them to repent. He simply reminded them of who they were: “*To those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people*” (1:2). He first clarified their identity.

**In our day and age, there is a great hunger and deep-seated desire to know one’s identity.** We continue to ask ourselves questions like “Who am I?” and “Why am I here?” This is not surprising because we know that without a clear understanding of our identity, we continue to find ourselves empty and meaningless – and to fill that void, we try to cover it with cheap substitutes or engage in the things that will only bring temporary pleasure. To make matters worse, we’re constantly inundated with so many messages from this culture, claiming that they have the answer to these questions.

According to Paul, however, our true identity is found only in Jesus Christ. In Him, we’re sanctified (we’re holy and righteous before God) and in Him, we become His people (we now belong to Him). In other words, **our primary identity is that we are God’s holy people.** Our identity is not defined by what we do but by what Christ has done for us on the cross. Our value and significance are not found in what we do but in Christ Himself. Do you believe this? Are you confident of it? **This is so important because our identity will dictate how we live our lives today** – how you perceive work and how you work, how you view singleness and marriage, how you understand sex, how you spend your money, how you use your free time, and so on. Knowing who we are (in Christ) will allow us to practically live out our faith, daily – by saying “no” to ungodliness while faithfully pursuing holiness.

I, personally, believe that this is the most important thing that you must cultivate in your season today. If your identity is uncertain now, it’ll become even more unclear later. How, then, do we do this? We must turn to the Word. I invite you to discipline yourself in reading and studying the Bible because this is where we are repeatedly reminded and reaffirmed of our identity in Christ. This is how we can protect ourselves from being influenced by the world but rather to influence the world with the truth of God. I pray that this will be true in all your lives.

And, join our Bible study on Thursdays (because there are so much more that we can learn from 1 Corinthians).

*Pastor Woohyun Jung*