



Identity | 1 Peter 2:4-10

What we believe about who we are (our identity) is at the core of why we do what we do and why we make certain choices. The choice to stand strong in the midst of suffering is related to identity and so Peter moves into challenging us about identity and the false identities we can adopt.

Share an example of how you've seen identity influence behavior.

READ/REFLECT

1 Peter 2:4-10 ... read through these verses.

In verses 4-5, Jesus is called a living stone and we are called living stones. What does this say about community and *our* relationship with Christ?

The idea of being a priest is critical to this new identity we have in Christ. What does it look like to offer sacrifices to God? How is that an exciting thought and/or an intimidating thought?

In verses 6-7a, Peter challenges us to think about shame/honor and the role that they play in the identity that we choose to adopt. What is the cycle of shame that can occur in our lives? How does honor (or, grace) free us from that cycle?

In verses 7b-8, the non-believing world is described in terms of their relationship to Christ. What does it look like when we begin to see the world that way? Why does Peter include this observation?

In verse 9, we are described as a "people for his own possession." What does that mean?

What does it look like to move from needing to "possess" to being willing to be a "possession"?

RESPOND

Spend some time brainstorming: what disciplines can we employ to help shift the source of our identity to Christ?

Community is built on sharing something in common & sharing our stories reminds us of what we have in common. Take some time this week to write out a part of your story and how you've moved from shame to grace. Then, share it with someone ...

And, if you're "slightly more daring" – share it with Ted Wueste or Mark Philpot for posting on the Trinity Chapel website or sharing through a video!

REACH OUT in prayer

Ask each person in the group to share how others can pray for them to apply these truths to their lives.