



Identity #1 :: Personal Identification {Joel Thomas}

INTRODUCTION

Are you proud of your identity as a Christian? If you're not a Christian, what kinds of images and attitudes do you associate with Christians? Although there are many *Christian* businesses, *Christian* activists, *Christian* music, and *Christian* programming available, the term *Christian* was a noun before it was an adjective. In fact, the heart of being a Christian is not about what you do or who you know. It's about who you are on the inside—your true character—your personal identification with Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why might someone have an aversion to being labeled a Christian? When have you tried to hide the fact that you were a Christian?
2. If you were to tell someone the secret to life, what would you say? Why is success in life often measured by what you do or who you know?
3. In what ways do we confuse what we do on the outside with who we are on the inside? Is there a difference between the two? Should there be a difference?
4. Read Romans 8:29-30. What kind of picture does God have in mind for our identities as Christians?
5. What are some of the top things on your “to do” list? What are some of the top things on your “to be” list?
6. What steps can you take to move from being who you are to becoming who you want to be?

THINK ABOUT IT

Our identities, who we are, will never be a priority unless we are intentional about being shaped into Christ's likeness. By default, we pay much more attention to what we do or who we know. And as a result, we lose our real identities as Christians. Would you rather be identified by what you do or who you are?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

This week: (1) make a list of values that describe who you want to become; (2) attach verses from the Bible that support these values; (3) take personal inventory to see if you are developing those values; and (4) use your list to measure success. *“If you don't see falling short as failure, you haven't fully embraced these personal values.”*

CHANGING YOUR MIND

God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of



those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son.

Romans 8:29