

Who am I in Christ? #7: Righteous
2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Objectives: Begin to understand who we are “in Christ”. Understand the importance of seeing ourselves as God sees us. Start to replace lies we believe about ourselves with God’s truth about us. *Note- you will need to print off the scripture passage.*

Launch Use your own words... (5 minutes)

What are different factors that shape a persons identity? (There are many! Culture, experiences, family, ethnicity, location, opportunities, religion, interests, career...). Optional- what is one factor that has been significant in shaping your identity?

Intro to the series- The first half of the semester we sought to answer the question- Who is Jesus? by looking at how he describes himself.

For the next 4 weeks we are going to answer the question- “Who Am I” according to God? In other words, how does the Bible describe those who follow Jesus? The Bible lists over 40 things that are true of us once we place our faith in Christ. If you are a Christian this is a significant part of who you are. No matter what you feel or what you have done these 40 things define you. If you are not a Christian it is important to understand how the Bible describes a Christ follower because the way society/media portrays those who follow Jesus is not always accurate.

Explore

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 (both versions)

It is helpful to read a passage in different translations. Each translation is based off the same Greek text but may use different contemporary words to express the original thought.

- **How would you put verse 16 in your own words?** (*that we should not evaluate anyone from a human point of view. Instead we should view them the way Jesus does*)
- **Underline the words used to describe a person who is “in Christ?”** (a new creation, reconciled, ambassador, the righteousness of God).
- **How would you define each of these terms? Some of these words are hard**

to define, so no shame if you are unsure.

- *reconcile- to change from enemy to friend*
- *new creation- God has made us a new spiritual being defined by Him and not by the world*
- *ambassador- One who represents and communicates the will of God to others*
- *righteousness of God- God declares that Christ followers are righteous. Seen as “right” or without sin in God’s eyes.*

- **God uses 4 different words to describe a Christ follower in this short passage. Why do you think God wants his followers to know that they are reconciled, a new creation, an ambassador and his righteousness?**

Apply

- **Which one of these 4 words/phrases do you most need to believe is true about you? Why?**
- **How might your actions be different if you believed this to be true of you?**

Prayer

- **Pray that we would believe the identity God gives us in Christ.**
- **Pray that we would not believe lies from the enemy, the world, or our ourselves.**
- **Pray that we would be ambassadors for Christ who love the people around us and point them to Christ.**