



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: Reframe your Identity - Ephesians 1:15-23

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

When you pray, what consumes your prayers? Is it typically physical obstacles and meeting physical needs or is it about spiritual challenges and change?

QUICK REACTIONS

- How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?
- What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?
- Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

1. Steve talked about the importance of reframing our identity as Christians. The truth is, Christians are no different than anyone else and can easily get caught up in aligning our identity with what we do, how we look, or what we own. How have you experienced this identity confusion in your own life?
2. Paul prays that believers would “Know” the hope, inheritance and power found in Christ. How is this knowledge different than just head knowledge that puffs up?
3. If God’s power for us is so great, why do so many Christians fall into harmful sin patterns seemingly unable to get free?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Ephesians 1:15-23]

What had Paul heard about the believers in Ephesus? (vs. 15-16)

What does Paul mean by “His rich and glorious inheritance”? (vs. 18)

What 3 things does Paul pray the believers will know? (vs. 18-19)

Paul talks about the hope that we are called to in vs. 18. What is that hope? (vs 18)

Where is Christ seated? What does that mean? (vs. 20)

What does it mean that God has put all things under the authority of Christ? What does Christ have authority over? (vs. 22)

In what ways was the power of God manifested in Christ? (vs 19-22)

Questions that help us understand the significance of the text to us?

Steve mentioned that understanding the hope to which we are called in vs. 18 is realizing that the present circumstances don’t get to determine the meaning of your life. In what ways has your hope in Jesus and eternal future helped you get through a difficult situation or season in your life?

Christians are called to live by taking a posture of hope throughout life. How would you rate yourself on a hope scale today?

How would you define the resurrection power Paul talks about in vs. 19-21? How does this/can this power reframe your attitude throughout a normal week? *(It's power to make the most sinful, selfish human beings into people who are life-giving. It's power to reverse the brokenness and death we experience and bring life and resurrection out of it.)*

APPLICATION

As a group, take time to pray vs. 17-19 for one another; specifically that you would know God's hope, the riches of God's inheritance, and the immeasurable power that is available to us through Christ.

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about, as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?