1. WHO ARE YOU? How do you identify yourself?

- LANGUAGE OF IDENTITY - We live in a culture that constantly tells us that our identity is found in what we have or have not done; what job we have or what career we are hoping for; how we have succeeded or how we have failed.

- STAGES - When you’re a CHILD / TEENAGER / COLLEGE / CAREER / MARRIED / KIDS / RETIRED

- Let me ask a different question: Q. Who does the Bible say about our identity?

2. ARE YOU IN ADAM OR IN CHRIST?

- God sees humanity separated into 2 Teams with Two Heads / Two Captains / Two Leaders.

1 Cor 15:21-22 “For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”

- We were born in Adam a sinner; we are born again in Christ, who is the Savior.
- IN CHRIST = On the cross, Jesus traded places with us.
- IN CHRIST = To be dependent on and defined by what JESUS HAS DONE/IS DOING.
- ADAM vs CHRIST = Wrath/Love, Condemnation/Salvation, Separation/Acceptance, Death/Life.
- 216x = “In Christ” “In him” “In the beloved” Q. Why so many times?

IDENTITY IDOLATRY

- If you’re not in Christ or don’t understand your identity in Christ you will look to get from CREATION what you can only get from JESUS. This is called idolatry.

Romans 1:25 “They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.”

Ezekiel 14:7 “...They took their idols into their heart...”

- IDOL = Anything, other than Jesus, that if you GOT IT = complete or LOST IT = destroyed.
- Satan wants you to try & achieve your identity through CREATION (Adam and Eve)
- Our identity is received from our CREATOR (God made me & Jesus saved me)

Items = Consumerism = Religion & Mall’s = Temples / Clothes / Furniture / House / Car / Phone-Tablet

Duties = Student / Funny-Serious / Responsible = Laid Back / Job-Career / Mom-Dad / Hobbies

Others = Fear of Man / Praise / Sex / Social Media / Wife / Girlfriend-Boyfriend / Kids

Longings = Tomorrow will be better / Married / Promotion / Money / Vacation / Pregnant / Alcohol / Drugs

Sufferings = Sins you have Committed / Abused (verbal-emo-phys) / Betrayed / Divorced / Poor / Sick / Cancer

Q. Are you in Adam? Seeking to find your identity in IDOLS? *THEY WON’T DELIVER.

BUT, JESUS DOES DELIVER.
EPHESIANS - Big theme throughout the book is identity

WHO'S READING?

- The Church in Ephesus
- Modern Day Turkey
- World-class city - 250,000 people - Think like LA or CHICAGO
- World Travelers passed through because of its location (Harbor, Highway system)
- Highly Spiritual / Pagan (Temple of Artemis *7 Wonders of the Ancient World / Witchcraft / Sorcery / Large Demonic Presence)
- Wealthy because of the trade routes via Highway and Harbor
- Drenched in Sexual Sin (Prostitution / Sexuality mixed with Spirituality having sex prostitutes that worked in the Pagan Temple of Artemis / Ancient brothel connected to the Library by an underground road)

IN SUMMARY, The Ephesians, the same as us, were constantly tempted to find their identity in the CREATION rather than the CREATOR, JESUS.

WHO'S WRITING?

- The Apostle Paul / Formerly Saul
- Former Jewish Pharisee trained under Gamaliel / Highly Religious / Killed Christians
- Saved by Jesus around 34 A.D. / Radically changed
- Church Planter / Pastor / Theologian (Scripture)
- Planted the Church at Ephesus around 52 A.D. / Spent two years there preaching and teaching
- Constantly Persecuted and Imprisoned for preaching the gospel / Preaching against idols
- Writing this letter from Prison. He’s likely in Rome around 62 A.D.

“IN CHRIST” IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

- 11x = First 14 verses
- Verses 3-14 make up ONE SENTENCE in the Greek (original language)
- Paul tells us 9 things of what it means to be “IN CHRIST”

1) IN CHRIST YOU CAN BE FAITHFUL

Ephesians 1:1 “To the saints who are at Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus.”
- THE WORLD says, “What you do determines who you are.” IT’S A LIE!

2) IN CHRIST YOU ARE BLESSED

Ephesians 1:3 “Blessed be the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.”
Ephesians 1:6 “He has blessed us in the Beloved.”

3) IN CHRIST YOU WERE CHOSEN AND MADE BLAMELESS

Ephesians 1:4 “He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.” *Gonna get more into this in a few weeks...

4) IN CHRIST YOU ARE FORGIVEN AND REDEEMED
Ephesians 1:7 “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.”

5) IN CHRIST YOU CAN KNOW THE WILL OF GOD

Ephesians 1:9 “[He made] known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ.”

6) IN CHRIST YOU ARE RECONCILED

Ephesians 1:10 “…as a plan for the fulness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.”

7) IN CHRIST YOU HAVE AN INHERITANCE

Ephesians 1:11 “In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will.”

8) IN CHRIST YOU HAVE HOPE

Eph 1:12 “That we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.”

9) IN CHRIST YOU HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

Ephesians 1:13-14 “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”

TAKE HEART, EKKLESIA

Because Jesus is unshakable- having died for sin and arising for salvation- your identity is eternal and unshakable in Him.