

Series Title: 'True Self: Who are you really?'

Primary Aim: In this series we will try to wrestle with some of our felt needs (for love, acceptance, significance & security) and look at the answers we find to those questions in Jesus Christ. We will begin with the intrinsic worth we have because God made us in His image. We will end with the glorious future we have as we finally become the people God intended us to be. In the middle we will wrestle with the tension between our sinful nature and the people that God is making us to be.

1. Intrinsic Worth: God's Image

Passage: Genesis 1-3, Psalm 139

Blurb: We look at the way God originally made us in His image and in His likeness (4 'R's: rational, relational, real & responsible). We are worth it because God has made it that way: we are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139) and we are worth more than many sparrows (Luke 12:6-7). This is true despite the impact of the fall and God's image in us being marred. We will begin to see the kind of people that God uses are those who understand their identity and are willing and available for His service.

2. Am I loved? True Intimacy

Passages: John 4, Luke 15 & 1 John 4:7-21

Blurb: Many people want to be loved and seek that from others. Ultimately however there is only one who will not disappoint us or let us down. Like the Woman at the well we can try to make people love us through sex or the Lost son through money or living it up. Ultimately the love of the Father (who welcomes us back with open arms) is the only thing that will satisfy. He loves not because we are lovely but because He is love and it is part of His character. A relationship with God brings us into a new and satisfying intimacy like no other.

3. Am I significant? True Calling

Passages: Ephesians 2:6-10, John 15:1-17

Blurb: Many will search for a sense of identity in their work or careers. We will see how this pursuit of definition in the things that we do will only lead to disappointment. Instead we will see how a relationship with God gives us a sense of purpose because we are recreated in Christ to do the good works He has prepared in advance for us to do. We will see how we become friends rather than servants of God and that fruitfulness is rooted in remaining in Christ.

WEEKEND AWAY: Ambassadors: True Purpose (double session on Weekend away plus seminars)

Passages: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21, 1 Peter 2:9-12 & Matthew 5:13-16

Blurb: In these sessions we flesh out further how our identity makes an impact on how we live. Specifically in these sessions we are going to examine the kind of influence that we can have on others as we live our identity as ambassadors for Christ. What we want to do with the sessions is to see how a deep understanding of who we are can help us to live lives that are attractive, distinctive and cause others to glorify God.

4. Am I accepted? True Belonging

Passages: Galatians 3:26-4:7, 1 John 2:28-3:10

Blurb: This session focuses in on the question of acceptance which is a huge issue especially for those of us who have had to face relational breakdown in our families. Instead we will see how a relationship with God transforms our sense of belonging as we begin to see God as our good Father (Luke 11:11-13) and ourselves as His sons & daughters. This is illustrated in the idea of adoption (Eph 1:5, Gal 4:5 & Rom 8:15 & 23) and our new belonging not only as children but also as heirs.

5. Am I secure? True Assurance / Confidence

Passages: Romans 8, Hebrews 10:19-39

Blurb: We often search for security through money or wealth or status but they rarely satisfy. In Jesus however security can be ours through the new assurance that comes from a relationship with Jesus. There is no condemnation says Paul (Rom 8:1) and the Spirit lives and ministers within us to testify that we are children of God (Rom 8:2-17). We can also be assured that there is nothing that can separate us from God's love (Rom 8:28-39) and through prayer we can enter God's presence (Heb 10:19-39).

6. Glorious Future: True Citizenship

Passages: Philippians 3, Revelation 21-22

Blurb: The end point of this series is the final part of the Tick Diagram which depicts the New Creation. We have seen that we were made in God's image and through Christ we are new creations and citizens of Heaven. However we're still a work in progress until Jesus returns and we are transformed into His likeness. In the New Heavens and the New Earth, we will be the people that God intended us to be, but without the sin and suffering that holds us back from serving God here and now.