

How Do You Know Who You Are? Things That Identify Us

•Intro

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- Identity, do you know who you are in Christ. Talked about stories and characters. You are the character in a story.
 - Why does it matter? A proper understanding of the premise of a story will help you understand both who you are and why it matters. The premise of God's story - relationship with you, individual, through Jesus, for now and eternity. It matters because you matter to God.
 - How do you know who you are? What are the things that identify us?

•CROW [S]

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- Improv background. I use this all the time when studying narrative passages.
 - C**haracter - your part at any given moment.
 - R**elationship - how you are related to the other characters, your status. Others will know by your relationship.
 - O**bjective - what you are trying to accomplish on a character or ensemble level
 - W**here - your location.
 - We have a variety of CROWs that we play all the time. Need to connect the dots.

•Who We Belong To

Who we belong to, our relationships, are a key sign in understanding who we are. They identify us.

♦Three examples. Can have, should have with God.

Might need to separate baggage from these because Satan has messed these up on purpose.

Servant - right and wrong models.

God is a loving master, one to whom you can attach yourself, one you will want to serve with your whole life.

[S] Exodus 21:1-6, the bondservant. Willingly attached.

[S] Matthew 18:21-35, the unforgiving servant.

-Plain application - been forgiven, you need to forgive

-Aux application - been forgiven, stop trying to earn

CROW servant

Son - right and wrong models.

God is a loving Father, one who wants to hold you in His arms and love on you, but will also correct you when needed.

[S] Luke 15:11-21, the prodigal son. Father waiting, willing.

[S] Hebrews 12:5-7, a loving father disciplines.

-Jesus endured not for Himself, but for us.

-Just because you are saved doesn't mean "get out of jail".

-When God disciplines it is for our good. Amber incident.

CROW son

Spouse - right and wrong models.

God is a loving Husband, one who will remain faithful to us despite our flirtations with other gods. He doesn't want our obligation, He wants our hearts.

[S] Hosea, God the faithful husband. Despite whoring idolatry.

[S] Ephesians 5:22-27, husband and wife job descriptions.

-Jesus demonstrates love, Rom 5:8. Rom 7:4. "Till death do us part." No death in heaven.

-A bad marriage based on obligation, lack of options, becomes routine and loveless. Melissa's fam. Is that church for you?

-A good marriage based on love, you'll want to spend time together, have conversation, lose yourself in the life of the other.

-Today show thing on divorce.

-Two shall be come one. So it is with Jesus.

CROW spouse

◆ Who we belong to determines our actions at any given moment.

-Doing our own thing with no responsibility to anyone else.

-Listening in class or tasks at work.

-Chores at home

-Boy/girlfriend.

-Superheros saving the one they love for themselves, or selflessly serving and sacrificing for the greater good.

-These things should not be separate from being a believer. Being a believer should dictate our behavior in these different CROWs. Above all, Jesus' disciple (C), master/student (R), represent Him (O), everywhere (W).

◆ What do your relationships, actions, and CROW tell you about who you are? They are a key sign, a key clue.

● Who We Want to Be Like

Who we want to be like is a also key sign that tells us who we are. It's the first thing other people see.

-Who do you want to be like? When we are little we all want to be like someone. We want to be like (blank). Me? Tom Conway, Harvey Korman (Jim Carrey and Steve Corel). Wanted to be on SNL.

-Maybe it's been a while since you thought about who you wanted to be like.

-You are just trying to keep up with being yourself let alone be like someone else.

-Maybe you don't like who you are becoming. Maybe you know exactly who you want to be like. Reconsider?

-What we want in life heavily influences who we want to be like. Peter, MJ, and Flash.

-It's a good question to ask yourself. Who do you want to be like? Take a look at Israel.

◆ 1 Samuel 8

8:1-5

-They wanted to be like the nations around them.

-They gave up on God and made their own plan. Have you ever done that? Wanted to be like those around you? Difference between giving up on church and God. Godless churches.

-The reality that they will come to know is that the nations were no better off. They were already like the nations.

8:7 reject Judges Shuffle.

-Everyone needs to have a personal encounter with the living God. Without that, all you have is religion, not a relationship with Jesus. Do you have that?

8:10

-Reference Deut 17:14-20. That would be a great king!

8:11-18

-Now get into what the king would actually be like. Survey.

-When we try to do our own thing, when we try to be like the nations around us and put a different king over our lives other than God, we will get ripped off!

-You might have a temporary sense of satisfaction or even some success. But your joy will be gone, your sense of purpose will be gone, and in the long run you will be empty and alone.

8:19-22 Survey.

-Why does this happen to us? Because we don't see God for who He is and who He can be in our lives.

♦ Acts 8:9-25 Simon wants to be like the Apostles

-8:9-17 Sets the scene

-8:18-19 Simon doesn't get it.

-8:20-25 Peter rebukes Simon, not sure if Simon ever really gets it.

-Do you see the things of God and think you want to be like that, but you still miss the point? Like Buddy on The Incredibles.

-We can't just be like Jesus, not by our own efforts. That, sadly, is the impression too many people have, for better or for worse. Are you trying in your own strength? Stop it!

♦ Who should we want to be like? Jesus.

● Do You Know Who You Are?

♦ Been asking in the context of who you can be in Christ.

-More fundamentally, do you know who you are? As you look at your CROW, who are you?

-How do you know? What are the things that identify you?

-How do people identify you? "He's So-n-so's son." "He works at that place." "She the lady who laughs funny." Or, "He's a Christian, but not the lame kind."

♦ How can we be son/servant/spouse? Only through Jesus.

♦ How can we be like Jesus? Only through being born again. Gospel. Romans 6:3-4. This is what the next few sessions will be about.