

Who Are You? Born That Way

• Review

- Do You Know Who You Are? Stories, characters. We are a character in our own story
- Do You Know Why It Matters? Premise of a story. Points of view. We are a character in God's larger story.
- How Do You Know Who You Are? The things that identify us. CROW. Who we belong to. Who we want to be like.
- Resurrection Sunday was an overview of the next few weeks. Nature. Old, change, new.
- Today may seem like kind of a bummer because we are going to focus on the problem.

• Intro

• If I were to ask you, "Who are you?" what would you say?

- You might give me a relationship to someone else.
- You might give me an occupation or function to connect dots.
- You might deflect the questions. It's not an easy one to answer.
- Reverse it. Who am I? (ask them to answer)

• Identity. What identifies you? Two options most significant.

- Christian. One of Christ's. You belong to Him, you are in Him, He is in you.
- Not a Christian, separated from God no matter how good you think you are.
- What's the difference? Your nature. Not what you do, what you are. Identity is found in what you are.
- While what you do reflects what you are, doesn't always =. Sleep in a garage doesn't make you a car.
- Going to talk about the nature of who/what we are. Going to illustrate with Spiderman. Me, movies, and Jesus

• The old nature (spidey clip)

• What we observe

- The movie begins and ends with the same question, but different answer.
- Compared to everyone else on the high school food chain he is a dweeb.
- While he may be a dweeb compared to his peers, he's really on the same level. All normal, all human, all about self.
- He's not Spiderman. He can't be more than he is. None of them can.

• Biblical truth

- **Romans 3:10-18, 23**. Collectively and individually.
- Can people do things that are good and beneficial? Sure. What does **23** mean? Doing or being? Being results in doing.
- Why? How?

- Begins in Genesis

- **Genesis 2-3**. Each of the two trees would result in a change of nature. Created somewhere in between. Tree of life, live for ever. Other tree, dying you shall die. Must mean they weren't dying,

but capacity to die.

- Supposed to have relationship and find all significance in Him. Every need, felt and real, is designed to drive us back to Him. *When we find that elsewhere, that is sin.*
- *When we create God in our image, instead of operating in His image, that is sin.*
- "How unloving of God not to accept people who live this way and are so good and loving." How unloving of us to tell God He's wrong and needs to get His act together.
- What does that have to do with us? *Romans 5:12, 18a, 19a.*

- The more we reject God, the worse things get.

- *Romans 1:18-32.*
- Wanna talk doing? 10-link chain thing. 600+ commands! *James* says violate one, guilty of all.
- *Isaiah 64:6.* Our best is grosser than gross. Right standing.
- Apart from God we are fallen, we are unclean, we deserve Hell, and there isn't anything we can do on our own to fix it. It's our nature.
- "But God will accept me if I'm like this and not like that, won't He?" No, because that isn't the point. That's how we work, not God. *How does God work?*

• The only answer to Peter Parker's desire to be more, the only answer to our problem of a fallen nature, is to get a new nature.

- *Romans 5:18-19.*
- *Romans 3:21-26.*
- We were born this way. There is no fix in this state. We were born this way. We need to be born again with a new nature.
- Peter doesn't even know that this is an option let alone the only answer.
- *This is the point of Christianity, of Jesus, and most people seem to miss out on this as well. To not only be restored to that state in Eden, but to eat of the tree of life and live forever, have eternal life. And it's only through Jesus.*
- It's not something we do, it's something the Holy Spirit does it us. We just have to cooperate. More next week.