



Identity | Ronnie Johnson | 9.22.19
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

What is bringing you life? (It could be something small or big like pumpkin spice lattes, fall weather, deep friendships... etc.)

SHARE

For the very first time in Red Rocks history, we were able to bring the weekend experience LIVE into our campus at the Denver Women's Correctional Facility! God continues to move in ways beyond our imagination. It was an incredible gift to be there worshipping alongside these women as Ronnie brought the message and reminded us of our identity in Christ and the freedom to live out of this identity.

What was the most powerful thing you took away from experiencing church inside GBB this weekend?

GROW

Read: Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:7

We are all in search of who we are, and whose we are, at some point in our life. This week, Ronnie shared a story about a man who searched for his identity after being beaten and left outside near a dumpster. He had no idea who he was or even who he belonged to. After

searching for several years, he still never found out his identity. Can you imagine? This man's life identity was stolen from him.

Have you felt like something or even someone has stolen a piece of your identity from you?

One thing I am assured of is that we can all relate in some way or another to the search for an identity and greater purpose; one beyond what you do or have done. One that is not connected to our family origin or place of birth because It is much greater than that. An identity given to all humanity from the very beginning and from the very perfect creator, God. For His glory and our good.

God created Man and Woman "in His own image" (Gen. 1:27). In the original language it translates to "cut or carve out." God designed us to represent His image. Although we were created in Gods image, God knows full and well that we are fragile. We were formed from the "dust of the earth" (Gen. 2:7) and God then breathed His breath, His Spirit into our lungs. Our God thinks deeply about His people, the ones He bestows His identity on, all the while keeping us in close proximity with Him.

How does knowing that God designed us in His own image out of dust and His breath change your perspective on your identity?

What was one thing that you can take away from this week's message that you have never thought of before or have been reminded of again?

M O V E

Read: 2 Corinthians 10:5; Ephesians 1:4; James 1:23-24

Ronnie mentioned this weekend, "The primary place that our identity is shaped is in the place of our mind." Because of the Spirit inside of us, "capture, like prisoners of war, every thought" (2 Cor. 10:5). We choose what we keep in and what we reject and let go, by remembering that whatever we keep in forms the way we see ourselves (identity) and the way we view others. By filtering the thoughts that go in and out of our minds we are able to live in freedom because we are **in Christ**.

**What do you think Paul was talking about when he said, “take captive your thoughts?”
What does it look like for you to do this in your own life?**

Our mind is powerful, and it will either bring death or life. As we look into a mirror, we will either see ourselves as God does or the way the world tell us to view ourselves. One brings life and the other death. One brings truth, and the other brings lies.

If a mirror was placed in front of you, who would you see? A man or woman who has messed up? In prison? In debt? Divorced? An addict? Prideful? Depressed? Anxious? Share with your group.

Now, that same mirror is placed in front of you, but this time imagine Jesus speaking these words over you...

- **You are chosen** (Ephesians 1:4)
- **You are mine** (Isaiah. 43:1)
- **You are children of God and heirs of God** (1 John 3:2; Romans 8:16-17)
- **You are fearfully and wonderfully made** (Psalm 139:14)
- **You are holy and blameless in my sight** (Ephesians 1:4)
- **You are completely secure in me; nothing will be able to separate you from my love in Christ Jesus** (Romans 8:39)
- **I will never leave you nor forsake you** (Hebrews 13:5)

This week, we encourage you to write some of these truths down and place them on your mirror at home. As you get ready each morning, may God’s truth bring you much LIFE as it reminds you of your identity being in Christ alone.

P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying for each other. If you are in a co-ed group, it can be helpful to break up into two groups in order to share more easily about your prayer request.

T O G O

For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:3)

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