

Small group optional guide: Christian Identity

UP; we grow in our love for Jesus through His word and worship

WORD: In His Imgae series, WK 2 – Christian Identity

World views: When we engage with this subject we should first recognise where our foundations are built.

- Christian views must be based on **Scripture alone**, it is helpful for non-Christians to understand why we believe what we do; it isn't because we hate or judge, it is based on the word of God; trusting that God knows best

Jesus said Matthew 16:24 deny (forget one's own interests) and follow me, whoever loses his life for my sake will find it

1) What is identity, what does the world teach about identity?

- Identity is our 'controlling self-understanding'.

The world teaches: Follow your heart, above all, trust your wisdom within / don't let anyone make you the way they want you to be: "I am like god; I know what is best"...first taught be a snake Genesis 3:1-6, it is a desirable to our human nature; but through it SIN entered.

Billy Graham "The devil's business is to deceive you...that you can find fulfilment by yourself"

2) What does the bible say/teach us; is it different?

Key verses: Isaiah 45:5 / Isaiah 44:24 / Eph 1:4 / Isaiah 29:6

Fulfilment, joy, satisfaction cannot be found outside of God's ways. Deuteronomy 30:15-20 it is a choice, either God's ways; LIFE & GOOD, or your ways; DEATH & EVIL

The issue of our day has been the issue of all mankind's days: exchanging "I am god" for "YOU OH LORD are God!"

Christian Identity is being contested by so much more than the current topics of gender or sexuality; to think they should be our focus would display Matthew 7:3 (splinter/plank).

Do I believe the bible tells me that God created me and I should trust him and not recreate myself by changing my gender; YES I do; the bible teaches that male and female gender was God's construct. I am the creation and he is the creator, I submit to trusting him and my hope for fulfilment and joy cannot be in recreating myself; they can only be found in Him.

- That is a splinter; what is your plank?

Part 3: what is Christian identity?

Christian Identity strips away all of me, so looks so much less – but is about so much more!

I am a Christian! (Sanctus story) / I am a new creation (2 Cor 5:17) / It is no longer I who live! (Galatians 2:20)

- There are desires in my heart that are good; they display God's ways, love, character and salvation
- There are desires in my heart that are NOT good; they don't display God's ways, love, character and salvation...but these desires are not who I am.
- There is no "DOT DOT DOT" Christian; whilst I carry the gifts from God, and my desires (both the sinful ones and the ones that display Jesus), if I allow them to become the place of my fulfilment (rather than fuel for my worship), I will drift into idolatry.

Questions to consider:

- Q) What good gift from God have you taken and either misused or have found fulfilment and identity in? (image, sport, success, marriage, relationships, business, wealth)
- Anything that we find our fulfilment, joy, identity in (of itself) is likely to drift into being an idol
 - 1 Cor 10:14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry
- Q) Do you need to do anything? If you do, do it quickly, if you need support, wisdom or prayer ASK for it.

WORSHIP songs: Thousand Hallelujahs/ Worthy of it all / Here I am to Worship / Living hope

OUT; we reach out to show people outside of JCC that God loves them

This week is churches together “Thy Kingdom Come”. It is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. This year it spans from 9 to 19 May, from Ascension to Pentecost.

There are prayer meetings all week in East Grinstead, please consider attending one of them (details on our website calendar)

If you can't attend, please write 5 names down for people that you want to see saved and pray for them.

For more information see:

[Thy Kingdom Come 2024 – Churches Together in England \(cte.org.uk\)](https://www.jcceg.co.uk/calendar/)

<https://www.jcceg.co.uk/calendar/>



IN; we connect and learn to love one another

Our gift day is in 3 weeks; 2nd June

We will be giving toward:

- 1) our community support projects (ie the Hub), that run through JCC
- 2) Church plants across New Ground
- 3) Improving the acoustics in meeting rooms at the centre for inclusion and sensory purposes.

Please discuss how you seek God for the figure you may give; how do you engage your spouse, children, self in the gift of generosity and giving?

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