



Sunday
July 27

Lesson:

This week, we looked at how we identify ourselves and who we truly are in Christ.

We started by spending a few moments introducing ourselves and telling each other “Who We Are”. We then heard a story about a group of blind men who were asked to describe an elephant and how each described what an elephant was based only on the small part that they examined (leg, tusk, tail) but a man with full sight could see the entire elephant and was able to correctly describe what an elephant truly was.

The introductions and the story showed how incomplete our view and understanding is of ourselves. We often make the mistake of identifying ourselves by only a very tiny part of who we really are or sometimes by who others say we are. We discussed some other examples of how we might identify ourselves such as somebody good at sports might say they were an athlete or a very pretty woman may identify herself by her appearance.

We said that the problem is all of these things are such a small, incomplete, picture of who we really are. Jesus sees so much more when he looks at us because Jesus sees the “Whole Elephant”. Jesus sees all that we truly are, all that we were created to be. We said that another problem finding our identity in things that we do, how we look or friends we hang with is that all of those things can be taken away in an instant leaving us not knowing who we are. Your actual true identity is a gift from God and it can never be taken away. We looked in the Bible for some descriptions of who we truly are.

In **Genesis 1:27**, God created us in HIS image, not that we all physically look like him, but we were created with God’s character. **Philippians 4:13** says that we can do all things through Christ. In **Philippians 2:13**, God works IN us giving us the DESIRE and the POWER to do his will. **Romans 6:6-7** tells us that our sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin no longer has any power over us. **John 1:12** tells us if we believe, we have the right to become CHILDREN OF GOD. In **1 John 3:1**, we find that God loves us and calls us HIS CHILDREN.

We discussed what it means to be a Child of God and compared that relationship with the relationship between a parent and a child.

- *God Love’s us UNCONDITIONALLY. God’s love for us, like a parents love, does not depend on anything we do and we cannot earn it or do anything to lose it. **Romans 5:8** tells us that Christ died for US while we were still sinners.
- *God protects us, Provides for us, Teaches us, Comforts us, etc. as a parent would for their child.

We said that knowing who we truly are also gives us purpose and direction. **Ephesians 2:10** says we are created to do good works which God prepared for us to do. We were also reminded that we are not saved BY good works but to DO good works. **Jeremiah 29:11** tells us that God has a plan for each of us. We were created for a divine purpose that only we can accomplish with the ability to achieve that purpose. God loves us not as a friend or a follower but as a parent loves their child.

We said there are many, many, other verses throughout the Bible that tell us who we truly are. Once we truly understand who we truly are and what it means to be a Child of God, nothing that anybody says or does to us or any circumstance we are in will ever make any difference. **We will always be a Child of God and nobody can ever take that away.**

We finished by watching two excellent videos, from the “Anima Series” about Who We Are. One was about who we are as a woman and the other was who we are as a man. Both videos were helpful to both boys and girls to not only let them know who they are but to also help them to also understand who the other is. The Youtube video links are included below.

Who you are: A message to all women - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWl5iXnguTU>

Who you are: A message to all men - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTAn-tk2pDA>

Have a blessed week!

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