



PROTOTYPE
Part 6: "Identify"
Sermon Small Group Notes
Speaker: Pastor Dave Patterson

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

- This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. After considering the needs of your group, you may choose one of the following options:
 1. one section of questions
 2. one or two questions from each section
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, add Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- Personal application is key to everyone's growth and should be included in every discussion. When asked how he or she intends to apply a certain principle a group member may say, "I need to spend more time in the Bible and in prayer." It is important for you to help group members make applications that are more specific and commit to a specific plan of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 30 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- As the leader your goal is to help bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their need for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.

INTRODUCTION

At this weekend's services we will baptize around 60 People! This was, and remains, the way that people are identified as believers. Today we will discuss the 3 things that take place as we identify with Jesus through water baptism.

MESSAGE

Your Future & Destiny are determined by whom you identify with.

[Acts 2:38]

“Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

[Acts 2:47]

...And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Jesus is the One who adds us to the church.

Three words about Baptism:

1. Identification - Going public with YOUR FAITH!

We identify with several things in our life, sports teams, our families in marriage.

What should we do when we identify with Christ?

[Mark 16:16]

Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.

Baptism is an outward expression of an inward reality, yet the inward reality demands the outward expression!

[Matthew 10:32-33]

*“Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. 33 But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also **deny** before my Father in heaven.*

Deny = to live a life in contradiction to

When we are born in the Spirit and baptized the Bible says we are now “IN CHRIST”

[2 Corinthians 5:17]

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2. Death - the Greek Word for baptize = to submerge, to immerse & to destroy!

The picture of Jesus: While on this earth he had a human, corruptible body, his earthly body was subject to decay, he was crucified and killed, his body was put into the tomb... But three days later he is given a new body, one that does not corrupt one that breaks all the laws of physics.

When we are baptized we identify with the death of our sinful nature and raise up out of the waters with a new nature one that defies the laws that used to hold us captive. We are no longer subject to our old fallen nature.

[Romans 6:1-7]

Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? 2 Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? 3 Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? 4 For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. 5 Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. 6 We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. 7 For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.

3. Resurrection

[Romans 6:8-14]

8 And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. 9 We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. 10 When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. 11 So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus. 12 Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. 13 Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. 14 Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

If this is true and sin is no longer my master then why do we struggle so much with sin?

How can believers live in the power of the resurrection:

1. Reckon yourselves = Applying your spiritual legal rights

[Romans 6:11]

Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

To reckon means "to put to one's account." It simply means to believe that what God says in His Word is really true in your life.

Reckoning is not claiming a promise, but acting on a fact. God does not command us to become dead to sin. He tells us that we are dead to sin and alive unto God, and then commands us to act on it.

[Romans 6:16-17]

Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. ¹⁷ Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you.

2 . Choose an altar

[Romans 6:13]

Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.

My life is an offering, my time is an offering, my money is an offering, my passion is an offering. Everyday and throughout the day I'm presented with 2 altars, the altar of self and sin or the altar of God. The place I choose to offer myself determines the spiritual reality I will live in.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What are some people, or things that you have identified with in your life and how have those things impacted your life?**
- 2. Do you have to be baptized to make it to heaven? (the answer is no) But... If Christ has rescued you through laying down his life for you and he asks you to be baptized why wouldn't you?**
- 3. Have you been baptized? If "yes" tell us about it, if "no" what is stopping you?**
- 4. When we are baptized what is it we are doing? (identifying with Chris's death burial and resurrection. And in that identification putting to death our old carnal nature and rising up new in Christ no longer a slave to sin)**
- 5. Have you experienced new found freedom since your baptism?**
- 6. Why is it so difficult for us to "reckon"? (Reckoning is not claiming a promise, but acting on a fact.)**
- 7. When it comes to the Altar of Sin and Self or the Altar of God could it be that our inability to consistently find ourselves at the Altar of God is because we aren't reckoning? Why is this so hard to do?**
- 8. Pray and declare that we are no longer slaves to sin but are set free to live a life above our carnal, fallen nature that wants to drag us back into the very thing we have been set free from.**