

It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for... Ephesians 1:11 (Msg)

- Your identity in Christ is living your life based on how God sees you.
- When you understand your identity in Christ, you'll have a greater desire to be <u>close</u> to God.
- Part of your identity in Christ is that you are a Child of God.

What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God! That's who we really are. 1 John 3:1 (Msg)

• God's love for you is what identifies you as a child of God.

For <u>God so loved the world</u> that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)

• Not everyone is a Child of God.

42 Jesus told them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, because I have come to you from God. I am not here on my own, but he sent me... 44 For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies. John 8:42,44 (NLT)

12 But to all who believed him (*Jesus*) and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. 13 They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. John 1:12-13 (NLT)

• Becoming a child of God is an adoption by **faith in Jesus.**

26 For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26 (NLT)

Benefits of being a Child of God

• God has provided an *inheritance* for you.

26 For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus... 29 And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. <u>You are his heirs</u>, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you. Galatians 3:29 (NLT)

17 And since we are his (God's) children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. Romans 8:17 (NLT)

...and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. 1 Peter 1:4

• God takes care of you.

"Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. This isn't a cat-and-mouse, hide-and-seek game we're in. If your child asks for bread, do you trick him with sawdust? If he asks for fish, do you scare him with a live snake on his plate? As bad as you are, you wouldn't think of such a thing. You're at least decent to your own children. So don't you think the God who conceived you in love will be even better? Matthew 7:11 (Msg)

• God gives you <u>confidence</u> that you belong to Him.

16 God's Spirit joins himself to our spirits to declare that we are God's children. Romans 8:16

• God is **intimate** with you.

But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. 5 God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. 6 And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." 7 Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir. Galatians 4:4-7 (NLT)

Application Steps:

Practice the <u>person</u> of Dad.

Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that. Ephesians 5:1-2 (Msg)

• Practice the **presence** of Dad.

When you pray say, Our Father in heaven... Matthew 6:9

5 Because of his love, God had already decided to make us his own children through Jesus Christ. That was what he wanted and what pleased him, Ephesians 1:5 (NCV)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE In a growing relationship with Jesus.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- Have you found it to be true that the more we understand and accept who we are in Christ, the closer we desire to be to God? Why do you think that is?
- In your own words, what does it mean to be a Child of God?
- What does it mean that not everyone is a child of God? Talk about the difference between a creation of God and a child of God.
- Having faith in Jesus gives us new birth, which brings us into the family of God. Why is this new birth so important? (Read John 1:12-13)
- What does it mean that God has provided an inheritance for us? Do you find it difficult to believe that you are joint heirs with Christ? What does that mean? (We share in the same rights and privileges as Jesus Christ)
- As a Child of God, what does it mean to you that God takes care of you?
- How does God give us confidence that we belong to Him and why is this important?
- Why is intimacy with God important for us?
- How do we practice the person and presence of Dad?



Opportunities to experience community:



CHURCH EST. 2004

Doing life together

Today's Talk..



You are a Child of God.

Sunday, December 15th, 2024

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