

## Questions

1. What are your typical answers to questions about your identity? In other words, how do you define yourself? Are you looking at yourself through a biblical lens? How does Romans 12:3-5 inform your self-evaluation?
2. Here's how the ESV translates the substance of Genesis 17:1-2: "*I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, <sup>2</sup> that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.*" The word "that" is correct at the start of verse 2. What does it say about the necessity of Abraham's faithful obedience? Does this change the nature of God's covenant promises?
3. How does your union with Christ impact you on an ordinary day? Or, in the midst of a deep challenge? Or even when life seems to be going very well?
4. Read Genesis 18:11-14. Can you look back on a situation when you were able to rest in God's sovereign rule even in the midst of very difficult circumstances?
5. In Romans 2, Paul speaks of Gentiles who lacked God's law and Jews who believed that they could obey God's law in a saving way. Read Romans 2:25-29. What does it mean to have your heart circumcised by the work of the Holy Spirit? How is the Spirit continuing to do this work in your heart?
6. Identify a New Testament verse or passage that helps you to remember your identity as someone who is joined to Jesus Christ.

*Need prayer?  
Someone will be up front by the piano  
to pray with you after the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> services.*

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# By Faith

Genesis 12-25

## I Will Be Their God

### Genesis 17

*Doug Sachtleben, Lead Pastor*

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In Genesis 16, God changed Abram and Sarai's names to Abraham and Sarah. There is great significance in this act that transformed their identities and their lives. And the four things God gave in connection with Abraham's identity all have relevance to the lives of those today who are Abraham's children by faith.

God appeared to Abram as "God Almighty" and gave two commands to Abram. If Abram did not seek to walk before the Lord (in the power God supplied), he would not experience the blessings of God's covenant promises.

1. God gave new names to Abram and Sarai (17:5, 15). He also gives a new identity to all He saves today ("in Christ").

2. God gave Abraham the eternal promise of Himself (17:7-8). He also gives the eternal promise of Himself to His people today.
3. God gave a promise to Abraham that He would do what was otherwise impossible (17:16-19). He remains powerful to do more than His people today can imagine.
4. God gave Abraham an outward sign of His covenant community (circumcision) that He commanded Abraham and his children to take. He also gives an outward sign of our union with Christ (baptism) that He commands all of Abraham's children by faith to take.