

spiritual infant

DISCIPLE ME

**THE ONE ABOUT IDENTITY:
PART 2: CHILDREN OF GOD**

ICEBREAKER: LABELS AND LIES

Growing up, were there any labels (positive or negative) that people gave you that stuck? How did these things shape how you viewed yourself when you were younger?

READ: THE DANGER OF LABELS

Whether it's being called "smart," "lazy," "too quiet," or "too loud", most of us carry with us some baggage from the labels we received when we were younger. These labels can influence how we act and think about who we are. The problem is, these labels don't always reflect the truth of who we are in Christ. This reality gives us a chance to talk about how God sees us, beyond any of those labels, and discover that we have the choice to view ourselves through God's lens or through the world's labels.

ACTIVITY: GIVE ME 60

Using the box below, brainstorm together as many labels (positive or negative) or ways that people are described in our culture in 60 seconds. Set a timer and see how many you can come up with.

DISCUSS:

- How do labels affect the way we connect with others – do they help us understand each other, or do they get in the way?
- What's the difference between a label that describes someone and one that defines them?

- Are some labels or distinctions more important than others?

STUDY: Galatians 3:26-28

At our last gathering, we began to look at the topic of identity and discovered how Paul wrote in his letter to the Galatian church that our identity is to be found in Christ. While there may be many different labels that we could accurately apply to how we view ourselves, Paul's perspective was that the majority of these differing labels made very little difference.

Read Galatians 3:26-28 together, and summarize what you think Paul is trying to say.

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith,²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

READ: CLOTHED WITH CHRIST

In this passage, Paul uses an interesting picture to help communicate the importance of having a singular identity, instead of a plurality of labels. He argues that when you choose to follow Jesus, you become one of His children, and all the other monikers and markers no longer matter.

Think of it like being drafted to join a new team. Your name may be on the back of the jersey, but the only thing that matters is the logo on the front. When you put on the jersey, you are no longer identified by your own individual identity but by the team you belong to. The jersey represents the team's values, goals, and identity, and when you wear it, you're showing that you are part of something bigger than yourself.

Similarly, when we are clothed in Christ, our identity is no longer shaped by who we were or what we've done, but by who Christ is and what He has done for us. Just as a team member plays with the team's purpose in mind, we live out our new identity in Christ. The jersey is a symbol of unity and belonging to a group with a shared mission, just as being clothed in Christ shows that we belong to God's family and live according to His calling.

CHALLENGE: THE FAMILY OF GOD

- This week, find five passages in the Old Testament and five passages in the New Testament that describe what it looks like to belong to God's family. Then make a list of those characteristics and qualities and text them to your discipleship partners.