

Lesson Aim: To assess our relationship with sin before and after a relationship with Jesus Christ.



connecting

Prayer: Start your time in prayer together, asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.

Ice-breaker: In one of the passages we will look at together, the idea of death and resurrection is mentioned 15 times. What is the closest you have ever come to death?

1. In the message Sunday, Scott asked the question “how many of you feel spotless, perfect, without blemish, spiritually beautiful and holy in God’s sight?” Many people who know Jesus personally have difficulty fully believing this. What might be some reasons for this?

2. **Read Romans 6:1-10.** What are some implications of the statement that we “have died to sin” if we are in Christ?

3. In the message Sunday, we heard the statement that “our identity in Christ is a question of knowledge, not experience” and that “many Christians are desperately trying to become something that they already are.” What are some ways Christians try to earn their identity in Christ?

4. Are there any ways you personally struggle with feeling like you’re trying to earn your identity in Christ?

5. **Read Luke 19:1-10.** Prior to meeting Jesus, what are some ways the text implies that Zaccheus was a “slave to sin”?

6. With his newfound identity in Christ, what are some specific ways that Zaccheus counted himself “dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ”?

7. **Turn back to Romans 6, and read verses 11-14.** What are some specific ways Paul lists to help Christ-followers deal with sin and focus on Jesus in their lives?

8. Share some specific and practical ways you have been able to do this in your life.

9. Share some specific and practical ways Christ can help you with this in your upcoming week.



growing



sewing



reaching

Close in prayer as the Lord leads you.

IDENTITY THEFT (WILL THE REAL YOU PLEASE STAND UP?)

→ John 1:11-13; 1 John 3:1; Colossians 1:13

PRINCIPLE #1: When you receive Christ into your life you become a child of God.

PRINCIPLE #2: You cannot do for yourself what has already been done for you.

❶ A KNOWLEDGE TO BE GAINED (Romans 6:1-10)

A. When you find a...

- ◆ Promise ◆ Claim it!
- ◆ Command ◆ Obey it!
- ◆ Fact ◆ Believe it!

B. Scripture refers to our position / identity in Christ in the past tense.

The Apostle Paul identifies every believer with Christ in His death (Romans 6:3, 6; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:1-3), burial (Romans 6:4), resurrection (Romans 6:5, 8, 11), ascension (Ephesians 2:6), life (Romans 5:10, 11), power (Ephesians 1:19-20), inheritance (Romans 8:16-17; Ephesians 1:11-12)

C. Our identity in Christ is a question of knowledge, not experience

D. Our identity in Christ is established as historical fact

❷ AN ATTITUDE TO BE MAINTAINED (Romans 6:11)

A. Death is an ending of a relationship, not existence (2 Corinthians 5:17, 21)

B. The power of sin has not died (John 8:34)

❸ DISTINGUISH BETWEEN OUR MORTAL BODY & OURSELVES (Romans 6:12)

A. Sin can remain in our physical bodies, but not in us

- ◆ We are more than our physical bodies (2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:21-23)
- ◆ That which is mortal is corruptible (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)

B. It is our responsibility to not let sin reign "in our mortal bodies"

❹ EXERCISE THE WILL (Romans 6:13)

A. A negative command: "Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness"

B. Two positive commands: "Offer yourselves to God"... and... "Offer the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness"

❺ THE SOURCE OF ENCOURAGEMENT (Romans 6:14)

A. You are not under law

B. You are under grace