



imago dei



Big Idea

Pastor Joel – Part 2

In Part 2 of our **IMAGO DEI** (IMAGE OF GOD) series we looked at our true identity that the enemy has worked so hard to hide from us. Genesis 3 through Revelation 20 is the account of the battle between Evil and Good. It is the process of God rescuing and restoring His creation and Image Bearers who have been under the curse of sin and the influence of Satan, whose favorite weapon is lies. He works especially hard to get believers distracted from their identity. How do we discover our true identity? We learn what God says about us as believers. He says we are made to be “in Christ”? **“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” 2 Corinthians 5:17-18.** In Christ we are totally new people, not merely a makeover.

In Christ you are **1) completely accepted** by God, **2) extremely valuable** to God (so valuable that Jesus died to redeem you), **3) eternally loved** by God, **4) totally forgiven** by God, and **5) fully capable** of becoming all that God made you to be. So, how do we win the identity battles? With the truth from God.

“We demolish (Satan’s lies) arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. We learn to identify the lie and replace the lie with God’s truth. Lie: I’m worthless. God’s truth in Christ: I was so valuable to God that Jesus died for me!

Discussion Questions

- Of the five truths presented in the sermon, which is the easiest for you to believe? Which do you find hardest to believe?
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. What are some of the ways you have changed since giving your life to Christ? What are some new ways He is growing you now?
- What do you have that is valuable to you? What did it cost you in effort or sacrifice to get it?
- Why do you think we often want to measure our value to God by how “good” we are or by how we perform?
- Tell about a time when you have seen God’s unconditional love demonstrated to you. Maybe it was through an act of kindness by a friend, a gift you didn’t feel like you deserved or an unexpected good outcome in a difficult situation. What did you learn from that experience?

Prayer Focus

Jesus, Thank You for bridging the great distance between God and us and for Your interest in a relationship with us. Thank You for making us in Your image. Please help me represent you well this week.

Next Steps

List out 2-3 places that God has placed you where you can reflect His image. Spend some time praying for those places and how God is using you there to show His glory to the world. Because of who I am in Christ, what is one step I can take to represent God well this week?

Leader Tip

What are some Imago Dei actions you and your Group could recognize and live out with each other and in the community? How could that change the Group experience with each other during this semester and with God?