

IMAGO DEI



Leader Conversation Guide – Imago Dei: My Truest Identity

Main Idea

Every one of us wrestles with questions of identity. Who am I? Where do I find my worth? The world offers countless labels, but Scripture reminds us that the only One who has the right to define us is the One who created us. From the very beginning, God made us in His image—Imago Dei—and that truth shapes everything about who we are and how we live.

In Ephesians 1, Paul paints a powerful picture of our identity “in Christ.” We are not defined by what we do, what we have, or even what we’ve done. Our truest identity is found in what’s been done for us. In Christ, we are chosen, adopted, holy, blameless, redeemed, forgiven, and deeply loved.

This week’s message reminded us that identity determines behavior. Who we are shapes what we do. When we live from the truth of who we are in Christ, we begin to walk in freedom, confidence, and purpose. As we begin our discussion, let’s open our hearts to the voice of the One who created us and let His truth settle once again: you are who He says you are.

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

GENESIS 1:27

Make it Practical:

You were created in the image of God.

- Our identity begins with God’s design, not our performance. The only One who has permission to label us is the One who made us.
- Genesis 1:27 – “So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.”

Who you are determines what you do.

- Identity shapes behavior. When we know who we are in Christ, our choices and actions flow from that truth, not from insecurity or striving.
- Ephesians 1:1–2 – “To God’s holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

In Christ, your identity is secure.

- You are chosen, adopted, holy, blameless, redeemed, forgiven, and loved—not because of what you’ve done, but because of what Christ has done for you.
- Ephesians 1:3–7 – “He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight... In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

Talk About It

We often look to what we do, what we have, or what others say about us to find our identity. Why do you think it's so easy to let those things define us instead of who God says we are?

Ephesians 1 describes believers as chosen, adopted, redeemed, and forgiven. Which of these truths feels hardest for you to fully believe about yourself right now—and why do you think that is?

When you live with confidence in your identity “in Christ,” how does it change the way you approach challenges, relationships, or your sense of purpose?

The only one who has permission to label you is the One who created you. Your identity isn't achieved by what you do—it's received through who you are in Christ.

Prayer

Father, thank You for creating us in Your image and calling us Your own. Help us to see ourselves the way You see us: Chosen, loved, and redeemed through Christ. When the world tries to define us, remind us that our true identity is found in You alone. Strengthen our confidence to live out who we are in Christ and reflect Your image in everything we do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Next Steps

Reflect on your true identity.

- Take time this week to read Ephesians 1 and write down the words God uses to describe who you are in Christ. Let His truth replace any false labels you've believed.

Speak truth over yourself.

- Each day, declare one statement of identity from Scripture, such as “I am chosen,” “I am forgiven,” or “I am loved.” Allow God's Word to shape the way you see yourself.

Live from who you are, not what you do.

- Before making decisions or reacting to challenges, pause and remind yourself, “I am an image-bearer of God.” Let that truth guide your actions, words, and relationships this week.