

Lifegroup notes from Sunday 19 June 2022

Reading: Philippians 2:1-15

Identity in Christ

We're continuing to revisit our vision statement, L.I.F.E to the full:

Love of the Father

Identity in Christ

Fire of the Spirit

Everyone's welcome.



Once we are convinced we are loved by our Heavenly father, we need to grow as His children. For all human births there is a process that is statistically normal. A child is born, it breathes, it cries, it holds its temperature, feeds, pees, poops, and then it continues growing, developing, being able to learn new things, starts to communicate, develops its own personality, gets taller, learns, eats all your food then goes off to start a new life!

If any of those steps are missing, we would be concerned. Sometimes they might happen in a different order, but we are looking for them all. So too with the Spiritual rebirth. A person moves from fascination with Jesus to full faith in Him and a new life has begun. That new life likewise has some milestones, including baptism, the filling of the Spirit, the evidence of the Spirit at work revealed in the fruit of the Spirit growing, and the gifts of the Spirit being used, the transformation as the Holy Spirit changes the person from the inside out, revealing the new nature, the person becoming fully who they were always meant to be, shining like a star as Paul wrote in our reading.

This natural Christian birth process means we discover our real identity, who we truly are, as those who are In Christ. We're God's kids, co-heirs with Jesus, transformed by our cooperation with the Holy Spirit at work in us.

As we are transformed, we do not all become the same, but we do all bear the Father's likeness, we become more Christ-like (not little Christs, but rather unique individuals through whom Jesus life is evident).

Christian maturity then, in part, is about more and more having our sense of self, our identity, rooted in what Jesus has done for us, what the Spirit is doing in us, what the father is shaping us to be.

Some questions

- What encouraged or challenged you in this message?
- Can you think some of the things we base our sense of identity on?
- The statistically normal human birth and development has many steps – what other steps would you include in the Spiritual rebirth and growth?
- Are you aware of your identity changing as you have matured in faith?
- What might it mean to "Shine like stars" in the places you go?
- On Sunday Jonathan reflected on Paul's description of Jesus' humility, and also reflected on the washing of the disciples feet. What holds us back from embracing humility?
- Who do you think is a good example of spiritual maturity, and what are the characteristics you admire in them?