

SERMON DISCUSSION GROUP

BECOMING WHO YOU ARE

August 22 - 26 | Becoming Who You Are Study: Ephesians 1:15-23

While anyone can take time to answer these questions individually, these questions are best discussed in a group! Not in a group yet? We want you in one! Head over to southeastchristian.org to join a group in person or online, wherever you are—today!

Allowing other people to define our identity often leaves us feeling anxious and empty. It's only in Jesus – the One who fills everything in every way – that we find an identity that can make us whole.

The letter of Ephesians was intended to be read to the assembled church in Ephesus. Read Ephesians 1:15-23 aloud to yourself and imagine that you are in the original audience. How would you have responded to these words? What would have been your biggest takeaway from what Paul wrote here?

We often struggle with the labels other people put on us, particularly those we received when we were younger. What labels have people given you through the years? Were these labels hurtful or helpful? How does your identity in Christ speak into these labels?

Kyle said our struggles with identity are really a struggle with emptiness. We're trying to fill our "identity jar." How does knowing that Jesus "fills everything in every way" (v. 23) free us from that struggle? What are some practical reminders you can build into your day to help you remember that He has filled your "identity jar"?

Look again at all the prayers Paul prayed over the Ephesians in 1:15-23. What were some of the things he prayed for them? How can these requests transform the way you pray for others? The way you pray for yourself?

What are some ways we "filter" our identity today? In what ways have you allowed how other people see you to affect how you see yourself? How do Paul's words here in Ephesians 1 help us recast our identity in terms of how Jesus sees us?

Paul encouraged the Ephesian Christians by commending their faith and love (v. 15). Some of the most important words we can speak into someone else's life are the words "I See In You..." Who is one person you can encourage this week? What blessing can you speak into their life?

We, like the Ephesians, are called to be people identified by our faith and our love. What would it look like for you to live out that identity in your home? Your neighborhood? Your workplace? Your Facebook page?