



Midweek Study Notes

7th November 2021

Prepared by Matt

Identity

James spoke of the battle for our identity, which rages every single day of our lives and is perhaps the biggest battle that we face. *Everything we do comes from who we are, or who we **think** we are.*

There are parts of our identity that God does *not* see when he looks at us. Perhaps people have labeled us with insults, comments or opinions that have stuck. The words or actions of others can imprint on us and become part of our identity, they become our 'fake ID.'



Jesus was already the son of God and the word of God when he was baptised by John, but God still declared *"this is my son, in whom I am well pleased."* Jesus pleased the father before his ministry had even begun, meaning that before he carried out any miracles he already knew who he was; *a son.*

Perhaps the most important message we can hear God saying to us is: *"You are my son. You are my daughter. You belong to me."* And in return, we can declare *"I belong to my father. He is pleased with me."*

The Devil attacked Jesus' identity, and he will attack our identity too. *Have people spoken insults, words or comments over you that have become part of your 'fake ID'?* Do you find it easy or hard to know that you belong to God, and that He is pleased with you?

In response to James' message, ask God what He sees when He looks at you. Repeat the same prayer for the other members of your group. Share what you feel God is saying. How does God's view of you differ from how you see yourself?



Further Suggestions for Prayer

Pray for Bradley during his time of isolation. Pray that God will give him peace as he begins life in a brand new country and prepares to serve Croftlands Community Church.

Pray for the Little Nippers parent and toddler group. Pray that those attending the group will find out something of the amazing love that God has for them.

Thank God for his provision of Croftlands Junior School, our current 'home'. Pray for the school's staff and pupils. Repeat Mervyn's prayer that we will all further set our home in God's amazing love, and also pray for people you know who need to discover God's love for the very first time.



Pray for the Persecuted Church

Mervyn reminded us that Sunday was the international day of prayer for the persecuted church. According to the website *persecution.org*, the number one thing that persecuted Christians ask for is prayer, so devote some time now to interceding for them.

Pray that persecuted Christians across the world will feel the comfort and encouragement of the Lord. Speak out the words of **1 Peter 4:12-14**

In **Matthew 5:44**, Jesus says, “*love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.*” Pray that the people persecuting Christians across the world will come to know Christ.

Pray that in the midst of persecution and despite all odds, the church will be strengthened and continue to grow.

The Bible is full of verses on persecution and faith in the midst of trials. These verses bring great comfort and encouragement, yet many Christian have never had the chance to read them. Pray that persecuted believers will be given access to God's Word.