

EPHESIANS

WHO I AM AND WHY IT MATTERS

For the first few weeks of the summer, we've been in a series that will carry us through this season. We're talking about who you are and why it matters throughout this study of this book of the Bible. In other words, we're spending a season of our time in the Word together, defining our identity as Christians. As we've said previously, the first three chapters are more of a theological message about who you are. In comparison, the last three chapters discuss the practical outplaying of that spiritual identity.

Scripture: Ephesians 3:1-13

Discussion Questions:

1. Looking back at your sermon notes, what encouraged or challenged you the most?
2. What does it mean when Paul refers to himself as a prisoner for Christ? What does this say about how Paul viewed his life circumstances?
3. What's the difference between your faith shaping the way you view your circumstances and your circumstances shaping the way you view your faith?
4. While you may not face imprisonment for your faith like the Apostle Paul, you can undoubtedly expect to be ostracized in one way or another. In what ways are we likely to pay the price for following Christ?
5. What is the "mystery" that Paul refers to throughout today's passage? What is the "manifold wisdom of God" that Paul mentions in verse 10? How are these two connected? Why should today's passage give us a higher view of the church?
6. What does Paul mean when he uses the word "stewardship" in verse 2? What else does Paul say about his stewardship in verse 8? How could you personalize the truths of these verses to your life?
7. What does it mean that following the way of Jesus means looking at others through the lens of eternity? How does today's passage speak to this way of viewing others?
8. Read Philippians 3:17-21 and Hebrews 10:24-25. What do these verses say about not losing heart and remaining faithful to Christ in a culture moving away from all semblances of Christianity?
9. What's one personal takeaway from today's study you can focus on applying in your life this week?