

Knowing who you are in Christ

- a) To what extent do you think there is confusion in the world today about human identity?

What problems do you see in our world when people are not sure about who they really are?

- b) John Calvin started his famous Institutes of Religion with these words:
“Nearly all wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and the knowledge of ourselves.” (Institutes 1.1)

What does Genesis 1:26-28 tell us about who we are in relation to God?

How did the rebellion of Adam and Eve affect humanity? (Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3)

What is the most important thing we need to know about ourselves before we can appreciate and accept what Christ has done for us on the cross?

What is the difference between living “In Adam” and living “in Christ” (Romans 5:21; 1 Corinthians 15:49)

- c) The word “Christian” is used three times in the New Testament ([Acts 11:26](#); [26:28](#); [1 Peter 4:16](#)). Followers of Jesus Christ were first called “Christians” in Antioch ([Acts 11:26](#)). “What do you mean when you say I am a Christian?” How would you unpack this in a way that communicates to your friends, family and colleagues?
- d) How did a clear sense of identity help Jesus fulfil his purpose on earth? (Luke 3:21-23; Luke 4:3; Mark 10:45).
- e) Look up these bible verses and explain in your own words what it teaches about who we are in Christ?

I am a new creation (John 3:5-7; Ephesians 2:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17).

I am a saint (Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:1; 1 Peter 1:15-16)

I am adopted into God’s family (Romans 8:14-17; Ephesians 1:5)

- f) How is a clear sense of our identity in Christ crucial to being effective and fruitful in the life of discipleship? For example, in times of temptation, in times of persecution, in times of failure, in times of weakness, in times of suffering?