

**Sermon:** Christianity and Identity.  
**Series:** *Exploring Christianity*

**Scripture:** Galatians  
**Date:** July 18, 2021

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**OBSERVATION** -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

**INTERPRETATION** -- Answer these questions together:

**1) What does this passage teach us about us?**

a) Read Galatians 2:15. Paul addresses his audience's controlling identities – Jew and Gentile. What are some of your controlling identities that you embrace (career, family, ministry, culture, etc.)?

b) in what way is creating your own identity a form of law keeping that binds us?

c) How might you respond to someone who said that we should all be our “true self?”

**2) What does this passage teach us about God?**

a) Read through Galatians 3:23-4:7 together. How has God changed our identity? What identity did we have before the Father sent Christ? What identity do we have now in Christ?

**3) What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?**

a) In Christ we have 3 new identities: 1. We are loved (2:20). 2. We are sons (3:23-4:7). 3. We are the new creation (4:14-15). Which of these stands out to you? Which do you struggle to embrace?

**APPLICATION**

a) What do you boast in other than the cross (6:14)? How might you begin to boast in the cross more and more this week? Can you think of a specific way to boast in Christ?

b) Paul says that he has been crucified to the world and the world has been crucified to him. This doesn't mean that we “exit” the world, it means that now we can enjoy the world as a simple gift. What part of your life do you need to demote from “controlling identity” to “gift to be enjoyed?” What specifically might this look like in your life?

**FIGHTER VERSES: Ephesians 2:4-10.**

**PRAYER**

Praise God for his great grace in giving us a new identity in Christ.  
Confess any controlling identities that have stolen glory from God.  
Ask God to help you find your value and meaning in Christ alone.