

Who Am I?: What it means to be a child of God

Part 1: How can I be a child of God?

John 1:10-13

**INTRO:** Who are you? One of most important questions you can ask/answer

If we can't answer it... life ends up just happening to you, direction is at best murky, end up working for other people's purposes without really even knowing it...

But if we can... decisions/reactions/choices... and life becomes clearer/more consistent... become who you were always meant to be

So who are you really?

Talk about together...

**WE:** The most fundamental questions of the human experience are "Who am I?" and "why am I here?".

Questions humans have asked from the beginning

So many ways to answer... humanity has always used different categories and combinations of these to try to answer... all helpful...

Family/Relationships - Job/role - Tribe/Village/Race - Nationality/Political Association - Religion/denomination/church

Nothing wrong with these... Each of these descriptions are an aspect of the You you call you...

But are any of those things actually WHO you are?

Like if I know that your last name is Smith, you're a Hispanic Female Libertarian Episcopalian from Bozeman Montana who owns her own art gallery do I now know who you really are inside?

But Why does this really matter?

Because if you don't know who you are you'll never know why you truly are here... **Clarifying our identity clarifies our purpose.**

If you don't know YOUR purpose you'll be used for someone else's purpose.

Knowing who you are and why you are here is one of the greatest strengths you can have.

- A filter to understand why you choose what you choose...
- Compass for life: What choices you should make
- Clarity for life

Why doing series.... Help answer these fundamental questions in a way that will not only help guide your life but help define and discover your true life and purpose...

**Knowing who you are allows you to become who you are meant to be.**

**GOD:**

Have to start at the root/core... why so many start with family...

- Values, looks, reputation.

In fact... God chose to describe the ideal relationship with him as family- parent/child

- Unique in the ancient world.
- Usually it was the king who could call the deity a "father"
- Or at least a certain select few/family

Jesus made it clear that God is the Father of all (Our Father who is in heaven)...

But Jesus went deeper than just God being our father bc he created us or is king of the universe...

He described it as an intimate personal relationship... unheard of, groundbreaking,

So important that BF John used this idea to introduce the reason for Jesus life, death, resurrection...

It is this relationship that answers at a fundamental level our deepest universal questions... who am I and why am I here...

When we really look at this we discover... **Jesus offers a new and better identity that leads to a new and better purpose**... than the one we give ourselves.

Here's how John described it- **John 1:10-13**

This is huge and there's actually a lot here if we take a closer look...

"But to all who believed and accepted"

**All-** This relationship available to anyone/everyone.

This is a universal invitation to a new kind of relationship with God

Not based on race/family/achievement/religious observance

**Jesus invites everyone to be a child of God**

How do we accept the invitation?

"To all who Believed and Accepted"

**Believed-** Not just agreeing mentally to some ideas...

But **Choosing** to trust that Jesus is who he said he is and that he will do what he said he will do

Trusting that Jesus was telling the truth.

- He is God in a body.
- He showed us who God really is b/c he really was God
- And that he can give us eternal life... now and forever.
- **Belief is choosing to trust that Jesus is reliable.**

**Accepted-** Not accepting some facts, even believing he was who he said he was... but CHOOSING to accept Jesus as the King.

Not just of universe... but of **you**. More next week.

This is a change/transformation of allegiance... from anything else (national/political/family/job/self) to Jesus.

Choosing to identify as his b/c you trust him.

**Being a Child of God is a relationship with God based on trust and allegiance.**

“To all who believed and accepted... He gave the right”

- **He gave...** Gift. We choose to become his child and he makes it happen.
- **Right-** Not just a legal right/possibility/or ability, though that is there too... but the connotation is- Power.
- Maybe ambassador is a close example... they are then given the right/the power to be/act to identify as/be/and speak for their country of allegiance wherever they are.
- When we believe and accept Jesus we are given the power to be/act like a child of God.

“To become children of God”

- **Become-**a transformation.
- Not just the sense that all humanity are the children of God...
- Which is true in a sense- created in his image/loved/cared for...
- But John (and Jesus) say there is a deeper relationship available...
- **Child of God-** look like, sound like, act like, learning from, obeying, enjoying... our Heavenly Father.
- To be completely/fully known AND accepted, loved, enjoyed!
- To have peace with God. Ourselves. Others.
- To know who we are and why we are.

This is something we can become... something we can be transformed into

“They are reborn...”

**Becoming a child of God is a complete transformation of our identity.**

Inner change- Change of preferences/motives/purposes/ideals/attitudes...

## "Birth that comes from God"

So do we choose it and allow it to happen or does God choose us and make it happen? YES.

The BOTH/AND element we see throughout scripture

We choose trust and change our allegiance to Jesus  
And God then fundamentally changes our identity.

So many people have debated whether it's our own choice or if it is all the work of God... I prefer to see it as a dance where God leads but we have our role/steps as well.

Or like planting... you can put the seed in, you can water it, but ultimately it's not you who makes it grow.

Here's the beauty of it...

- Since it is something we choose to trust, it is available to anyone and everyone who is willing to choose this identity.
- And b/c it is also something that God makes happen to us it's not something we can try really hard to make happen... he does it
- And since it is not dependent on us, but on the unchanging God of the universe, it's not something we can lose... once he gives it, he gives it. It's ours.

Why is this all such a big deal? Why is this how John decided to describe the point of Jesus coming?

Jesus offers everyone a transformation into being fully human. Experiencing true, real, full humanity- Life at its deepest

**1 John 5:11-12** Eternal life... not just something when we die- full, meaningful life with God now through the Holy Spirit living in us now...

**When we are children of God we experience life at its deepest and fullest.**

We were created in the image of God- but we distort, pervert or blur that image b/c of selfishness, hate and greed... which the bible writings call Sin- Breaking the Law of Love.

- Separates us from God, Others, ourselves.

But Jesus' death and resurrection defeated the power of this sin and he will set us free from its stench and clutches.

And as we trust Jesus and become more and more like our heavenly Father we continually become a better reflection of His image.

It is a rebirth of who we are at our deepest core... it is a restoration of being who we were created to be.

And it is all based on trust...

Not trying to be really really good, not trying to feel really bad for not being really really good... trusting that God loves you so much that he came and lived and died and rose again for you.

Trusting him to transform us from the inside out.

Allowing him to reorient our life, our thoughts, our feelings, our hopes, dreams, goals to him.

And when we do that, we experience the life we were designed for...

We experience the clarity, confidence, joy, excitement that comes from truly knowing who we are and why we are here...

Life stops being something we try to get through as it happens to us.

As a child of God, life becomes an adventure of participating in God's restoring love throughout creation

### **YOU:**

As begin this series/journey-

### **Read- John 1:1-18**

Look at why he came and what it means to be a child of God..

**Ask** a couple of questions...

**Would could I experience by fully embracing an identity as a child of God?**

**What questions, experiences, doubts, distractions are keeping me from fully experiencing life as child of God?**

Maybe you haven't chosen to accept and believe? Give space/opportunity to accept offer? Maybe talk to someone about this?

### **WE:**

The identity and life Jesus offers is so much better, so much fuller than we imagine.

It's so much better than trying to live up to the identities others/culture put on us

It's so much better than trying to clean ourselves up by some religious piety or religious rituals.

And it's so much better than trying to find a full life by filling it with things that won't last.

The life Jesus offers is just that... LIFE. True life.

**The life Jesus offers is the life of simply enjoying being a child of God.**

So much to this... completely life changing so...for rest of this series we will dig into what it really means to discover, enjoy, and share this life.

### Summary:

Who are you? This is one of the most important and fundamental questions we can answer. If we can't answer it life ends up just happening to us without much direction or purpose. But if we do have an answer our life and direction becomes clearer and more consistent and we can become who we were always meant to be. So who are you really?

### Questions:

1. Describe yourself in 5 words or less.
2. Why do you think it is important to be able to answer the questions "Who am I" and "Why am I here?"
3. Read John 1:10-13. What stands out to you? How would you describe being a child of God?
4. What questions, experiences, doubts, distractions might be keeping you from fully experiencing life as a child of God?
5. How can your group pray for you this week?

### Main Points

The most fundamental questions of the human experience are "Who am I?" and "why am I here?".

Clarifying our identity clarifies our purpose.

Knowing who you are allows you to become who you are meant to be.

Jesus offers a new and better identity that leads to a new and better purpose...

Jesus invites everyone to be a child of God

Belief is choosing to trust that Jesus is reliable

Being a Child of God is a relationship with God based on trust and allegiance.

Becoming a child of God is a complete transformation of our identity.

When we are children of God we experience life at its deepest and fullest

The life Jesus offers is the life of simply enjoying being a child of God.

### Weekly Challenge

Read: John 1:1-18

Ask: What could I experience by fully embracing an identity as a child of God?

What questions, experiences, doubts, distractions are keeping me from fully experiencing life as a child of God?

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SHOW NOTES

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| SAY HI → <https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/welcome/>




| EPISODE BIBLE VERSES → John 1:10-13, 1 John 5:11-12

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