



## Week 5: September 19-25

Discipleship is not just what I do, it is who I am.

*John 13:35, Galatians 2:20, Matthew 28:18-20, 2 Timothy 2:2, 1 Thessalonians 2:8, 1 Corinthians 8:1-3*

Identity is very important in our world today. People want to be identified by their race, sex/gender, political affiliation, job or where they live. All of these, plus much more, are very important in our culture. Before Christ, each person is identified by sin and the absence of God from their life. But in Christ, we have a new identity rooted in the righteousness of God. We have died to our flesh and been made alive in Christ. Being a disciple of Jesus is part of our new identity. A disciple is “one who is following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and is on mission with Jesus.” Unfortunately, many in the church separate the identity of being a disciple from the work of a disciple. These are intended to go hand in hand. This is why we have the phrase “discipleship is not just what I do, it is who I am.”

Separating the mission of Jesus from who we are as a disciple is a misunderstanding of what a disciple is. Being on mission with Jesus is part of who we are in Christ. This simply means that we are intentional in loving people well and leading others into a meaningful relationship with Jesus. Having knowledge of God is an incredible gift and is part of the process of being a disciple. The knowledge we gain as we follow Him and are being changed by Him is not intended to be kept to ourselves. This gift is given to us to share with others.

In 1 Corinthians 8, Paul writes, “Now all of us possess knowledge. This knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.” In other words, knowing the right thing to do is meaningless if we do not love well. Love is an action verb and it’s how we are defined as disciples of Jesus (John 13:35). Let’s embrace our full identity of being a disciple of Jesus this week.