

# A Re-Centering on God: Our Identity

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## Big Idea Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



## Sermon Text

Ephesians 1:1-2



## Big Idea

Our identity is simply this: We are beloved children of the Most High God. And our identity is a beacon that point us to the truth that God is the primary actor in our lives, and he works in us to one end alone, which is our conformity to his likeness

## Our Identity

Paul identifies both himself and his recipients in lieu of their relationship to God. In calling us "saints" and "the faithful in Christ Jesus," Paul identifies who we are now i.e. we are set apart by God for God. This is both a privilege and a calling, and it forms the basis of our identity. Our identity, if we have put our faith in Christ is simply this: a beloved Child of God

## Implications

### Is Christ Lord of my life?

We must understand that there is no true salvation without discipleship and the question we have to ask ourselves several times is this: Am I truly living my life as an apprentice of Christ?

### Who am I becoming?

We are made for God, and nothing else will suffice. It was Augustine that said "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."

In the process of our misguided pursuit of other things apart from God is that we are becoming someone else other than who God has called us to be. In solely pursuing these other goals that are not centered in Christ, we are actually becoming the type of person that cannot be a disciple of Christ

### Purpose

In light of our identity, which is you are a beloved child of God, called to be saints, what then is our purpose? First of all, purpose is more about who you are becoming and never about what you are doing. Secondly, our purpose is simply this: to glorify God and enjoy him forever. Said another way, our purpose is to be conformed to the image/likeness of Christ

## Re-centering on God

From the implications we have drawn, we have much soul searching to do - a lot of questions to ponder on. In addition to these, there are 2 practical steps that can be helpful: cultivate an eternal perspective and learn to slow down



## Homework

- Take out at least 30 minutes every day of this coming week, and be in solitude and silence. By this, I mean find a place where the internal and external distractions in your life is significantly reduced. Consider these questions
- Looking at the past 12-24 months of my life, what do the following factors say about how I define myself
  - What I spend most of my time on
  - My motivations
  - My goals
- What do the answers to the aforementioned question say per about who I am becoming?
- Who am I becoming from the way my life (including time) is current ordered?
- Pick a scripture like Psalm 139, Eph 1:1-14, John 17, and meditate on it. What does the scripture you pick say about how God sees you?
- Write what comes to mind in a journal and pray about it