

The Power of Identity

Clark Kent discovers he is Superman. Peter Parker learns he is Spiderman. Steve Ratliff learns he is actually pastorman (just had to throw that one in!). Once they discover their true identities they begin to be a force for good in the world. There is power in knowing one's true identity! This truth is not just the basis for a superhero movie plot; it is important for us as believers as well. In our passage today, Peter explains the identity that is ours in Christ as believers. If we understand the significance of this identity, it can help us live with purpose and intentionality in doing the good that our Father in heaven wants us to do.

Read 1 Peter 2:4-10

1. What strikes you from this passage?
2. Read 1 Peter 2:11-12 and 4:14. What did the world around them "say" about the identity of Peter's readers?
3. How does Peter describe our true identity as the church?
4. In light of how the world viewed them, how might these truths have been powerful in the lives of Peter's readers?
5. How is understanding our corporate identity essential to living on mission and doing the good that our heavenly Father desires us to do?

Steve said:

Peter writes that you have this identity “that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” In other words, our experience of being delivered from darkness prompts us to proclaim/declare how excellent God is. We do this through words and actions. Let’s be honest, if you aren’t very impressed with God and what He has done in your life, you probably won’t broadcast how excellent He is; and if you do, you won’t be very convincing. But if you are experiencing your identity, living in “his marvelous light,” declaring God’s excellence will be rather natural.

6. Are you impressed with God and what He has done in your life? Is it natural to declare God’s excellence? What do your actions say?
7. If being impressed with God and what He has done in your life is critical to declaring the excellencies of God, what can you do to grow in this area?
8. What are some practical ways that we can declare God’s excellencies corporately as the church? As individuals?
9. What is the main thing that God is saying to you through this study?