

7. Read the following scriptures what do they tell us about our new identity when we encounter Christ? In what way do we have a new identity?
- 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - Galatians 2:19-20
 - John 1:12-13
8. If those who believe in Jesus have a new identity, why do they still struggle with sin and failure?
9. Pastor Kory said, "...it's only when we allow Jesus to adopt us and rename us that we become free to live out what God says we are. Having a relationship with Jesus isn't restrictive, it's freeing." Do you agree? What does this mean for you?
10. In what way do you think you've been less than what God created you to be?
11. What would it mean for you to trust Jesus as your Messiah (the one who came to free you)?
12. How would you live this out?



“Waiting for a Name”

Sermon Notes and Takehome

April 10th, 2011

“Committing yourself is a way of finding out who you are. A man finds his identity by identifying.” –Unknown

“This is faith: a renouncing of everything we are apt to call our own and relying wholly upon the blood, righteousness and intercession of Jesus.”
–John Newton

“Not only do we know God by Jesus Christ alone, but we know ourselves only by Jesus Christ. We know life and death only through Jesus Christ. Apart from Jesus Christ, we do not know what is our life, nor our death, nor God, nor ourselves.” –Blaise Pascal

“Whoever wants to save their life will lose it. But whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.” –Jesus

Scripture: Matthew 16:13-20

We have to figure out what to do with _____.

- His sustained _____.
- How _____ it is.

Jesus' first question:

"What are _____ saying about me?"

The disciples' response tells us Jesus was _____.

We tend to _____ ourselves in relation to other people.

- Jesus' question is a "DTR" question.

Peter answered the Jesus was the _____.

- The Jews believed the _____ would _____ the world to what God intended.

Peter identified Jesus and Jesus _____ Peter.

Our new identity changes our _____, _____, and _____.

What's your name?

Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. Why is our name so important to us?
2. If you were to look back on your life and "name" yourself, what name would it be?

Read Matthew 16:13-20

3. Why do you think Jesus first asked the disciples who *other* people thought He was?
4. What does it mean that Jesus was the Messiah (or Christ)? What were the Jews' expectations of the Messiah?
5. Why was it so important to Jesus that the disciples committed to Jesus as the Messiah?
6. Since most of us are not Jews. Why should we care that Jesus was/is the Jewish Messiah? (find hints in the following passages: Genesis 18:18, Isaiah 11:1-10, Matthew 8:10-12)

There is something special about the conversation between Jesus and Simon, whom Jesus renames Peter. There are other times in scripture when people are given a new name after an encounter with God (Abram renamed Abraham, Jacob renamed Israel). The name becomes a reminder of God's faithfulness or life transforming event.

(cont. on back)