



## **THE JESUS APPRENTICESHIP**

### **Session 3: Identity matters**

Who does God say I am and why is it important?

#### **Teaching notes:**

Understanding who we are is crucial because what we believe about ourselves affects whether we live the abundant life Jesus came to give us, and therefore how well we glorify God.

NB Freedom In Christ 33 declarations of significance, security & acceptance

1 Peter 2:9

To really understand who we are we must get hold of a bigger truth – Looking at life through the wrong end of the telescope -The question is “Who is God and therefore you are we.” – All our confidence & security is in Him.

#### **Who is God?**

Genesis 1 – God is creator =all powerful & the source of life

Psalms 90:2 ; Psalm 103:17 – God is infinite = there is always more of Him coming at us

Revelation 4; Psalm 19; 1John 4:8 – God is Holy – there is no shadow in Him, everything He does is perfect

1 John 4:8 – God is Love – everything He does is good & for my good

Exodus 34:6 – God is Faithful – we can rely on His promises

John 14:6 “I am the way the truth & the life” - If God is the truth then what He says is true, I cannot argue with the truth, we don't debate, discuss or negotiate these things with God. He is God and we are not, we simply accept what He says and live in that.

## **My Response to God**

If God says I am His child, I am His child - whatever I (or anyone else) say, think or feel about myself is irrelevant, what God says is true and how dare I disagree with God?

How dare I say I am not good enough if God says I am fearfully and wonderfully made? I may have some thinking and behaviours that are wrong but if I keep looking at my heavenly Father and all He is and all He promises to form in me then I am transformed by the renewal of my mind and the wrong thinking and behaviour drops away, instead I become a living sacrifice. If I struggle with low self-esteem I don't need more self-esteem I need more God-esteem, the bible calls it Fear of the Lord – I need to accept and believe what God says about me.

NB Psalm 139 & FiC declarations. – We may need prayer ministry if we really cannot receive the truth.

So first of all, in Christ I am free of the tyranny of self!! – I don't have to worry about my weaknesses or how I will manage life, how others will perceive me or react to be, I don't have to take offense if others react badly to me because I am focused on what God says about me, how He promises to care for me, protect me, vindicate me and bring good to me and through me. I am free to be a living sacrifice and then I start to be all the other things that the bible tells me I am.

I don't even have to worry and living out a Holy life because God promises to do that in me – Philippians 1:6 & 2:13, 2 Corinthians 4:7 & John 15. Of course I have to co-operate with what God wants to do in me NB Matthew 11:29 but He does the work NB Psalm 51.

## **Who God Says I Am**

Dearly loved child – Ephesians 5:1

Chosen, adopted & redeemed – Ephesians 1

Co-heir with Christ!!!!!! – Romans 8:17

And so much more! Meditate on how amazing it is!