



**Sunday August 22, 2021**  
**Identity & Intimacy**

**Introduction:**

**Man's basic Q's | Needs:**

1. Origin & Identity – Where did I come from? Who am I?
2. Purpose & Meaning – Why am I here? What's the point of it all?
3. Morality – What is right and wrong? How should I live?
4. Destiny – Where am I going?

*We can add to that list:*

5. Love and belonging – Whose am I?

All these questions/needs are fully and satisfactorily answered/met by the Lord Jesus or in relationship with Christ (and in Christ) as we have been learning all these Sundays.

Our Identity – new creation, justified, sanctified, crucified, buried, raised & seated with Christ

**Titus 3:8**

**8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.**

*Affirm* – state emphatically, state publicly.

*Constantly* – over and over again.

**Philemon 6**

**6 that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.**

*Acknowledge* – Recognize and accept Communication of our faith becomes effective, powerful, operative.

**1 Thessalonians 2:13**

**13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.**



**A. **CONNECTED** - Our Identity in Christ and our Intimacy with Christ are interconnected.**

Our recognition and affirmation of who/what we have become in Christ, changes our walk with the Lord. It leads to a closer, deeper, meaningful, relationship with the Lord.

**Dealing with some common misconceptions:**

*Misconception 1:*

'God is distant and so far away.' 'God does not love me nor care about me.'  
Emotionally we feel so distant from the Lord (due to various happenings) and we accept that as the truth. (eg,. Job loss, passing away of a loved ones)

*Truth:*

We were distant once without the Lord Jesus but, in Christ we have been brought near. God is close to us.

**Ephesians 2:13**

**13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**

**1 Corinthians 6:17**

**17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.**

*Picture of closeness:*

**John 15:5-9**

**5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.**

*Misconception 2:*

'God is a Holy God and I am not. So, I cannot come near Him. He is inaccessible and unapproachable'  
(eg. Sinful lifestyle, addiction)



*Truth:*

- Yes He is Holy
- Yes He described as one who dwells in un-approachable light
- Yes, we cannot draw close to Him in our own righteousness
- So, He clothed us with His righteousness.

He sees us as-

- ones who are **justified** (acquitted of all sin, blame and charges)
- ones who have been **made righteous** – having the right standing with Him
- the **righteousness of God** in Christ because of the shed blood of Christ

### **2 Corinthians 5:21**

**21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

### **Hebrews 4:14-16**

**14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

### **Hebrews 10:19-22**

**19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.**

### **Ephesians 2:18**

**18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.**

*But, what about my present and most recent acts of sin?*

### **1 John 1:9**

**9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Get right with God.

Our present standing (clothed in God's righteousness) empowers us to continue to live right.



- B. FORGET or DISREGARD** - When we forget who we are in Christ or willfully disregard who we have become in Christ, we make ourselves vulnerable to temptations and the desires of the flesh to commit sin

We sin, when we forget or disregard that in Christ:

**1) *We are new creations.***

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

**17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

**2) *We are the righteousness of God***

**2 Corinthians 5:21**

**21** For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

**3) *We are seated together with Him in the heavenly places***

**Ephesians 2:5-6**

**5** even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), **6** and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

**4) *We are no longer slaves of sin***

**Romans 6:6**

**6** knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

**Romans 6:18**

**18** And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

**5) *Sin shall not have dominion over us***

**Romans 6:11, 14**

**11** Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



**14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.**

**C. COUNTERFEIT - Sin offers counterfeit Identity & counterfeit intimacy**

*Counterfeit Identity*

**Significance, security & self-worth** based on-

- material possessions                    – bank balance,
- accomplishments                        – education, awards, accolades, achievements
- family background and connections (politicians, celebrities)
- social media                                – views, likes
- beauty, special abilities
- size of ministry, number of churches, etc

*Counter Intimacy*

- unhealthy emotional attachments, emotional affairs
- adultery
- pornography
- live-in relationship

**SUMMARY**

- 1) Affirm constantly
- 2) Acknowledge every good thing
- 3) Believe and see the Word work effectively



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Sunday August 22, 2021**  
**Identity & Intimacy**

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

### **Preparation**

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at [apcwo.org/sermons](http://apcwo.org/sermons) . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

### **Welcome**

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

### **LISTEN to God's Word**

Read the following Scripture passages:

- 2 Corinthians 5:17, 21
- Ephesians 2:5-6
- Romans 6:6
- Romans 6:18
- Romans 6:11, 14

### **INVESTIGATE God's Word Together**

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

- 1) *Share some common misconceptions that people might have or perhaps you yourself had about God/yourself before knowing the 'In-Christ' truth.*
- 2) *Discuss how to identify and deal with counterfeit identity and intimacy offered by sin.*



3) *Share some practical insights on how one can affirm constantly the in-Christ truth personally*

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

**FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey**

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

**ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another**

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

*1, families to be protected and strengthened*

*2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*

*3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.*

Close by thanking God together.



**USEFUL RESOURCES**



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

**YOUTUBE:** <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

**CHURCH:** <https://apcwo.org>

**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

**FREE BOOKS:** <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

**JESUS CHRIST:** <https://examiningjesus.com>

**BIBLE COLLEGE:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

**E-LEARNING:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

**WEEKEND SCHOOLS:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

**COUNSELING:** <https://chrysalislife.org>

**MUSIC:** <https://apcmusic.org>

**MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP:** <https://pamfi.org>

**CHURCH APP:** <https://apcwo.org/app>

**CHURCHES:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

**WORLD MISSIONS:** <https://apcworldmissions.org>