

The Power of Identity: 1 John 2:12-14

"Your body is ruled by your mind and your mind, by your heart. Therefore, what you proclaim loudly with your body reflects the true word that is in your heart."

Who do you say that you are?

Who do you say that God is?

You Become what you Follow: 1 John 2:15-17

"There is nothing, or next to nothing, in human behavior that is not learned, and all learning is based on imitation. If human beings suddenly ceased imitating, all forms of culture would vanish." --René Girard

Who do you follow after?

1. Those following the world become imitators of the world
 - a. Desire of the Flesh (Lust)
 - b. Desire of the Eyes (Covetousness)
 - c. Pride of Money (Greed)
2. Those following Christ become imitators of Christ.
 - a. Forgiven and Free
 - b. Redeemed and a Conqueror
 - c. United with God

Food for thought

Talking through the message with someone during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

Now, it is good for us to remember that God wants us to have self-control in the way we deal with our needs and desires. When we imitate the world, we become slaves to desires like lust, covetousness and greed. 2 Peter 1:3-9 encourages us to add self-control to knowledge and then add perseverance to self-control.

Knowledge – Knowing what tempts you is a first step in avoiding sin. Can you think of a few things or situations that set you up to sin or choose the wrong priorities?

Self-control – Our ability to say “no” to what we want is one of the most important things about us. How could you grow your ability to stand strong in the face of any temptations you listed above?

Perseverance – Having self-control over the long haul is greatly improved by taking others on your journey. Is there anyone you can think of specifically, either from your Life Group or from church, that can help you say “no” to the “cravings or wrong desires” we often face?

Jerad reminded us that, like ants, we become like what we follow.

Are there areas in your life specifically that you know is an imitation of something or someone other than Christ? Reflect below:

We were encouraged Sunday to follow fervently after Christ. How do the following verses help you understand what it means to be a follow/imitator of Christ?

Matthew 22:37-40

Matthew 28:18-20

Philippians 2:1-5

1 Peter 4:7-11

Which of these verses caught your attention most and why?

PRAYER TIPS:

Use these prayer tips to talk it over with God:

- God, I acknowledge You as a God who is full of love and grace. You have always been, are fully and completely now, and forever will be. You, oh Lord, since the beginning take what is chaotic and bring order, what is dark and bring light. Do the same in me. You are my wonderful and perfect Father. You see me as I actually am, and still, You Love me with immeasurable Love.
- Holy and Loving Father, Your love overwhelms me. May I see myself wholly as You see me. Might I know that I am Your beloved child—that I am forgiven and free, redeemed by Your sacrifice and united to You in Christ. Might I measure my worth, not by what others nor I might think of me, but by the worth You showed me on the cross. Today might I live loudly as Your beloved child in every hour that I work, in every moment that I live, and in every decision that I make.
- Holy Spirit, I commit today to following desperately after You. Infuse within me today Your will and Your way. Might every decision I make, boldly proclaim Your glory, love and mercy. I pray Lord, that my life might be a beautiful imitation of the life of Christ, who is my Lord and Savior.