

2

OUR IDENTITY AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Romans 1:7-15

I. What is Our Identity as Christians? (v.7)

** Our identity is built on three actions that God takes toward us in chronological order:
(1) He loves us, (2) He calls us to himself, and (3) He makes us holy

A. Beloved

- o Our identity is not about our disposition towards God, but His disposition toward us

"And you were dead in your trespasses and sins...But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ." Eph 2:1, 4-5

- o God does not love us because of our merits

"It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you." Deut 7:7-8

B. Called

- o Κλητοί = "called": this is a reference to God's action to draw us to himself

"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him." John 6:44

- o Why do we need God to "call" us to himself? Why can we not believe on our own?

C. Saints

- o ἁγίοις = "holy ones": Christians no longer belong to the world, but are "set apart" for obedience to God

- o The *real* you is the "saint" part (cf. Rom 7:17). How does realizing you're a saint affect the way you respond to sin in your life?

II. How Do We Relate to Each Other as Christians? (v.8-15)

A. Be Thankful for One Another (v.8)

- o Why was Paul thankful for the Roman Christians? Why should we be thankful for each other?
- o Don't underestimate the impact of your example!

B. Pray for One Another (v.9-10)

- o Why was Paul so eager to pray for the Roman Christians?
- o Why is prayer an essential part of relating to other Christians?

C. Mutually Encourage One Another (v.11-15)

- o What do Paul's words tell us about the importance of Christian fellowship?
- o Do we use our relationships for mutual encouragement in Christ? Or do we use our relationships primarily for other things?

Discussion Groups

1. How does understanding you are beloved-called-saints help take a load off of you today?

2. Share an instance when the example of another Christian encouraged you. How does this make you rethink your own example?

3. When it comes to Christian fellowship there are two extremes: (1) introverts who avoid it altogether; or (2) extroverts who use it only to provide relational “fun.” Which one are you? And how will you change?
