

# WHO AM I?

## FINDING MY IDENTITY / ROMANS 12-16

LOVED & ACCEPTED BY GOD (AND SO ARE YOU!) / TEXT: ROMANS 14

### Opening Question:

Who am I when we \_\_\_\_\_?

### The Slippery Slope of Opinions

1.

2.

3.

4.

### **1. \_\_\_\_\_ people where they are.**

*Vs. 1-10; Revelation 12:10-11*

To welcome someone means to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ them.

Give people \_\_\_\_\_ to mature in the gospel.

The human mind is quick to try and measure our \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ.

The Holy Spirit may lead different believers differently on \_\_\_\_\_ issues.

When our \_\_\_\_\_ collide, we remember that all of us are honoring Jesus in thankfulness.

Unbelievers & New Believers should never see Christians measuring \_\_\_\_\_ by preferences.

We do the \_\_\_\_\_ and let God do the \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2. Let God be the \_\_\_\_\_.

*Vs. 11-15; 1 John 4:17*

In essentials, \_\_\_\_\_.

In non-essentials, \_\_\_\_\_.

In all things, \_\_\_\_\_.

Don't create \_\_\_\_\_. REMOVE THEM!

### **Enjoy your freedom!**

*But there are moments when you need to \_\_\_\_\_ because this could be offensive or even damaging to another brother or sister in Christ.*

People need their own \_\_\_\_\_.

They don't need \_\_\_\_\_ boundaries.

## 3. Freedom looks like \_\_\_\_\_.

*Vs. 16-23; 1 John 4:17*

Just because you \_\_\_\_\_, doesn't mean you always \_\_\_\_\_ if it could hurt someone you're with in the moment.

Set healthy \_\_\_\_\_ for yourself when it comes to your \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ!

Defining sin isn't about a set of \_\_\_\_\_.

Defining sin is about \_\_\_\_\_.

God cares more about the \_\_\_\_\_ than He does the visible \_\_\_\_\_.

**If God can accept people that I disagree with on secondary issues, we can too!**

# **LIFEGROUP STUDY QUESTIONS**

## **FIRST THINGS FIRST**

1. What's something you've changed your opinion about over the years that you once felt strongly about?

## **DIGGING DEEP**

1. Throughout the sermon, Jeremy emphasized that believers may have different convictions, safeguards, and boundaries while still honoring the same Lord. Can you think of a personal conviction that has helped you in your walk with Christ? What is the difference between having a personal conviction and expecting every other Christian to adopt that same conviction?
2. Read Romans 14:1-3. Paul tells believers not to quarrel over opinions. What are some examples of "secondary issues" Christians argue about today that can distract us from the Gospel?
3. Jeremy said: "A preference becomes a conviction. A conviction becomes a standard. A standard becomes an expectation." Have you ever seen that progression happen in a church, family, or Christian environment? What was the result?
4. Read Romans 14:3-4. The first key thought was: "Accept People Where They Are." Why is that often easier said than done? What makes it difficult to accept believers who don't share our convictions or preferences?
5. Jeremy repeatedly reminded us that not everyone is in the same place. How should that truth impact the way we view: New believers? Christians coming out of legalism? Believers who have different convictions than we do?
6. What is one secondary issue that Christians often elevate to a primary issue today? How can we keep "Jesus. Period." at the center instead?
7. Read Romans 14:5-9. Paul repeatedly brings the conversation back to Jesus. Why do you think Christians are often tempted to make secondary issues more important than the Gospel itself?
8. Read Romans 14:10-12. Jeremy said: "We do the loving and let God do the judging." Why is judging often easier than loving? What would it look like to actually live out that statement?
9. Read Romans 14:13-17. Jeremy said: "The question is no longer, 'Are you free?' The question is, 'Are you loving?'" Why are those two different questions? Can you think of a situation where love should influence how you use your freedom?
10. Read Romans 14:18-23. According to Paul, what does Christian maturity look like? How is it different from both legalism and selfish freedom?

## **TAKE IT HOME**

1. Is there a person, church, denomination, or group of believers that you've been tempted to judge because they don't share your convictions or preferences? How might God be calling you to show them more grace?
2. Are there any areas where you need to give another believer more room to grow? What would "accepting people where they are" look like in that situation?
3. This week's identity statement was: "Who am I when we disagree? I am loved and accepted by God (and so are you)." How would truly believing that change the way we interact with Christians who see things differently than we do?