



Identity

Galatians 3:26–28

Tuesday, July 07th, 2020

“ 26 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise. ”

How quickly do you draw your identity from one of the many roles that you assume in everyday life and in the course of life? These roles are definitely not bad. For example, it is good if a man takes responsibility in his various roles such as loving husband, caring father, motivated employee, faithful community member, etc. and actively lives in it. We need to realize what responsibilities or roles God placed us in at this place at that time. It is good that in the time in which you live you have the individual responsibilities given by God. But there is an important difference between living in a certain role and accepting that role as your own identity. It makes you proud to make your role as the boss of a company your identity. It may lead to envy if one makes one's role as a “simple employee” one's identity. In the end, both are sin and a consequence of having found your identity in worldly things.

In the Letter to the Galatians we read of another identity. An identity that does not come from a role like slave or client, man or woman. It doesn't come from us humans at all or from anything we do. Not even out of our quest to be holy and just and keep God's commandments. Paul makes this clear in the verses beforehand. This other identity comes from God. It comes from the Word of God made flesh itself – from Jesus Christ. When we are connected to God in faith in Jesus Christ, we are no longer dependent on seeking our identity in anything other than HIM.

People who belong to Jesus have an eternal, divine identity: they are beloved children of God. On the one hand, this applies to the community of all believers together and should help us to accept each other in love across all differences, because we are aware that regardless of our role, we are also accepted in perfect love by Jesus. The same applies to every individual personally. According to the Bible, we are now a “new person” (verse 28). We can be happy that God is completely renewing us! Our identity is no longer being a sinner and enemy of God, but a Son of God and a Daughter of God!

Prayer: LORD, we thank you for giving us an eternal identity when you made us your children. Help us as a church to see each other in this identity: Your beloved children. Amen!

-Finn Langenbach-

