

Why Are We Still Searching for Ourselves?

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BIG IDEA

Your true self is not something you discover by looking deeper inside; it is something Christ forms as you pursue Him and are conformed to His image.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 139:13-16; Matthew 16:24-26; Romans 8:29; 12:2; 1 Corinthians 13:12; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 3:8,12-21; Colossians 3:1-4; 1 John 3:2

1. Philippians 3:15-16 describes spiritual maturity as sharing a particular mindset rather than reaching a destination. What does that reveal about how Christian growth differs from the world's idea of "finding yourself"?
2. Where have you been tempted to believe that lasting peace will come once you finally "figure yourself out"? What has that pursuit produced in your life?
3. Paul says, "Only let us live up to what we have already attained" (Philippians 3:16). What blessings, truths, or areas of growth has God already given you that you may be overlooking while chasing something more?
4. Philippians 3:17 calls believers to imitate godly examples. Who has been a Christlike model in your life, and what specific qualities in them point you toward Jesus?
5. What voices, influencers, habits, or cultural patterns most shape the way you think about identity? How do they compare with the pattern of Christ?
6. According to Philippians 3:19, what does it mean for someone's "god" to be their appetites or cravings? How can we tell when our desires have begun shaping our identity more than Christ has?
7. Which earthly identity—career, nationality, family role, achievements, personality, reputation, or something else—is most tempting for you to treat as your ultimate identity? Why?
8. Philippians 3:20 says our citizenship is in heaven. How should that truth reshape the way you make decisions, handle disappointments, and view your future?
9. Paul ends by looking forward to Christ transforming our bodies into His likeness (Philippians 3:21). How does the promise of future transformation give hope in the middle of present struggles with identity?
10. What is one practical way you can "lift your head" this week—fixing your attention on Christ instead of constantly searching for significance, approval, or identity elsewhere?