

May 22, 2011

Rethinking My Identity Jon Ritner

Ephesians 3:14-21

1. What were your thoughts about the rapture that didn't happen on the 21st? **Open answer.** What is the difference between describing ourselves and defining ourselves? **Open answer.**
2. In Chapter 2 of Ephesians we saw how the preposition "with" was used to signify that we are in a relationship WITH Christ. Read Ephesians 3:14-21. What prepositions are used to signify our new relationship with Christ? **"In". Col.1:27.**
3. What are some other examples in the Bible besides Abraham where someone had a name change that was intended to convey a change in identity as well? **Simon to Peter, Naomi to Mara, Daniel and his friends were given Babylonian names to change their citizenship, Saul/Paul (but the meaning of Paul is debated, the point was that he was a new creation in Christ, etc.**
4. Which form of false identification do you most often rely on when you lose track of who you are in Christ; your relationships, your responsibilities or my image in the eyes of others? **Choose one or more.**
5. Jon used the biblical illustration that ministry, or serving others, is like caring for sheep. Read John 10:1-18. What are the marks of a good shepherd? **To know them. To tend them gently.** To whom does the Shepherd look to receive his reward? **The master only.** Jon said, "Sheep are the work not the wage." What application does that have for our responsibilities in life to serve others, like our spouse, children, and coworkers? **Open answers. Their approval shouldn't influence my leadership. Be concerned with what God thinks of me.**
6. What are some of the things that we can only get from communion with God? **Open answer. From my vertical relationship with Jesus I am enabled to allow others to be more important than myself and to be more grace based in my horizontal relationships.** What other good things can we get from the community of horizontal relationships? **Open answer.**
7. Which of the 20 identifications on the cards that Jon handed out is the most meaningful to you in you life right now and why? **Open answer.**