
The Shepherds: Finding My Identity

Luke 2:8-21 // Todd Dugard

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As a believer, my identity is found in Christ who...

...speaks to me (v. 8-14)

...enables me to obey (v. 15-16)

...gives me reason to tell others (v. 17-19)

GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

- An essential aspect of the Christian identity is obedience to God's command.
 - In what ways has the Holy Spirit compelled your obedience in the past week? Or, rather, what does the fruit of your life this week or season say about your obedience?
 - Discuss: Which of these relational and cultural/social points makes godly obedience particularly difficult for you and why?
 - Fear of rejection
 - Desire for the approval of others
 - Relationships with and influences of non-believers
 - Unforgiveness and hurt
 - Social and cultural promotion of materialism or self-autonomy
 - Misunderstanding of Christianity as intolerant, irrelevant or outdated
 - Workplaces or environments where laws or regulations hinder openly expressing faith or living according to biblical principles
 - In consideration of what God has done for, in, and through you, how much do those challenges keep you from fully living out your identity as a follower of Jesus Christ?
 - What do you have to lose relationally, socially, eternally?
 - What impact does this have on the way you choose to live out your identity as a follower of Jesus moving forward?
- We are called to share the good news of the gospel with boldness as witnesses.
 - In what ways this week can you be on mission collectively? Individually?
 - The challenges listed above that make obedience difficult also make sharing the gospel challenging. Reflecting on the question "what do you have to lose?", brainstorm practical ways to share the gospel boldly and lovingly.
 - Share the gospel with someone this week, invite friends or family to the Christmas services.
 - Pray for boldness to live out your identity in Christ. Encourage each other through the week by sharing stories of people you have shared the gospel with or invited to "come and see" at Harvest. Talk to each other and pray over difficulties you face.