



small groups

Discussion Guide



Uncommon Identity

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Ice Breaker

(5 minutes)

This week's sermon dealt with the sins of Corinth which included adultery, prostitution, and human trafficking. If sermons had a rating system, this one would have been PG-13.

Discuss

- How old were you when you saw your first Rated PG-13 movie? When you saw your first Rated R movie?
 - Do you think you were too old or too young?
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Lesson Review

(40 minutes)

Discuss

- Craig drew several comparisons between the cultural setting in Corinth and in ours today. What similarities can you remember? If you didn't hear the sermon, use a

commentary or Bible handbook to research the Corinthian culture and look for parallels to our day.

Craig referred to Jesus' high priestly prayer in John 17 as a guide for our response to immoral culture.

Read John 17:13-19

Craig described four possible categories in relation to these verses.

Not in the world but of world: These groups separate themselves from unbelievers, but let the godless influence of the world spoil their community. These are churches who adopt or even condone sinful attitudes, but still condemn unbelievers. This category would be the very opposite of Jesus' call.

Not in the world and not of the world: These are groups who have successfully protected their righteousness, but done so by walling out the world into which they were sent. Monasticism does this, as do Christians who isolate themselves from unbelievers.

In the world and of the world: These groups are no different from the corrupt culture they are called to bless. The academic term for this is syncretism. Christians in this category care for their lost neighbors and befriend them, but fail to offer a life-changing story.

In the world but not of the world: This is Jesus' call, and it is the hardest of the four categories.

Discuss

- Try to think of a real life example for each category above.
- Which of the four do you naturally drift toward?

Craig said that for us to be faithful and successful in this calling, we need a deep understanding of our identity in Jesus. We can't let ourselves be defined by our relationship with the world, be it friendly or hostile. We must derive our deepest identity from our status as adopted children of God.

Discuss

Read the following verses and discuss what each of them says about our identity.

- Jeremiah 31:3
 - 1 John 3:1
 - Zephaniah 3:17
 - 1 Peter 2:24
 - Isaiah 1:18
 - Galatians 5:1
 - 1 Corinthians 6:19
 - Romans 8:15
 - Romans 8:17
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21
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Application

(15 minutes)

Discuss

- Identify one step you can take this week to move into the world with your identity outside it. In other words, if you naturally drift away from the world, think of a way to connect with lost people. If you naturally drift toward syncretism, consider how you can embrace a deeper realization of your heavenly citizenship. Talk about your ideas and commit to one step this week.

