

## Questions

1. What circumstance, relationship, or achievement are you most tempted to use as an identity marker rather than resting in your identity in Christ?
2. Where do you see fragility, exhaustion, or restlessness in your life, and how might those struggles be revealing that you're looking to something other than Christ to tell you who you are?
3. How should your identity in Christ inform the way you currently view your successes, failures, or life circumstances?
4. Whose opinion or approval most influences how you feel about yourself?
5. How can you tell when you've begun looking to people rather than Christ to determine your worth?
6. What would practically change this week if Christ's verdict over your life mattered more than the opinions of others?
7. How should having your identity and significance settled in Christ free you to be content where God has placed you or to pursue change if He opens a door?

# 1 Corinthians

**MESSY CHURCH  
MIGHTY CHRIST**

## **God's Saving Call Reorients Your Life**

**1 Corinthians 7:17-24**  
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In 1 Corinthians 7:17–24, Paul presents two illustrations of how God's saving call reorients our understanding of every earthly circumstance so that we will faithfully remain with God wherever He's got us.

### **The Controlling Principle (v. 17)**

Paul repeats this same basic thing three times in verses 17, 20, and 24.

*Need prayer? Someone will be up front by the piano to pray with you after the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> services.*

[gbclorton.com/sermons](http://gbclorton.com/sermons)

## **Circumcision: God's Saving Call Reorients Our Deepest Identity (vv. 18–20)**

For the Corinthians, circumcision wasn't merely a physical mark. It was a matter of religious identity.

"Keeping God's commands is what matters." (v.19) Paul is not replacing circumcision with obedience as a new outward mark for obtaining spiritual identity. Paul is clear elsewhere that obedience is evidence that God's saving call has already transformed the heart.

Cross-References: Deuteronomy 30:6; Romans 2:28-29

Common symptoms when our deepest identity is not found in Christ:

- Fragility
- Exhaustion
- Restlessness

## **Slavery: God's Saving Call Reorients Our Deepest Significance (vv. 21–24)**

For the Corinthians, slavery wasn't merely a social condition. It was a matter of social worth and significance.

Some believers who were slaves worried that their social position somehow limited their usefulness, significance, or standing as Christians.

The slave required the blood of Christ. The free person required the blood of Christ. Both were purchased at the same infinite cost.

Cross-Reference: Colossians 3:11

When your deepest identity and significance are settled in Christ, you are free to remain with God wherever He has got you and free to pursue change if He opens a door.