

A silhouette of a shepherd standing on a grassy hill, holding a long staff. Three sheep are visible in the foreground, also in silhouette. The background is a soft, hazy sunset or sunrise sky with a gradient from light yellow to blue. The title text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

INTRO TO BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP

Class Purpose

- “The long-term health and spiritual vitality of any church is dependent on leadership development.” – Mac Lake –The Multiplication Effect: Building a Leadership Pipeline
- FBC Leadership Aim: Servant leadership motivated by love with the goal of transformed lives.



Grace is the Cornerstone - Review

- Transformation is based in grace, begins with salvation, appeals to our position in Christ, is rooted in the Word (the gospel), is grounded in the knowledge of God, is performed by the Spirit, cultivated within the body of Christ, and results in an overflowing worship of God.
- Viewing grace as a foundational cornerstone for the believer's walk is imperative for combating legalistic performance and merit-based ways of thinking and living.

Grace is the Cornerstone - Review

- Grace is the unmerited, abounding provision of the unrestrained operation of God's infinite love through Jesus Christ on behalf of man, especially he who depends upon Him.
- Thinking: Grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ.
- Attitude: Coming to a settled conclusion about the Biblical teachings of grace.
- Action: How I think about grace impacts how I live and how I lead.

Identity

- What is the basis for my identity?
- When I meet someone for the first time how do I identify myself?
- How would a family member or co-worker describe or identify you?

Identity in Christ

- How we understand our Identity in Christ will instruct how we live, how we view leadership, and how we train ourselves and others to lead.
- Objective: Consider our identity in Christ, seeking to gain a foundational understanding and practical application of that in life and leadership.

Case Study:

- At the tables review the Case Study from week one and answer these questions.
 - How does my understanding of my position in Christ impact my thinking about Archie and Maggie's situation?
 - How does my understanding of position in Christ influence my attitude about Archie and Maggie?
 - How does my understanding of position in Christ shape my actions in response to Archie and Maggie?

Identity in Christ

- Do you feel you understand and appropriate identity truths?
- Are they impacting the way that you live and lead daily?
- How should they affect the way that I lead in the church?

Identity in Christ - Thinking

- “...the things which a believer is, by his position in Christ, are incompatible with those things which an unbeliever is because he is not in Christ...” Strombeck – Disciplined By Grace
- What does the Bible say about my identity in Christ?
What aspects of grace are secured immediately at initial belief in Christ?

Identity in Christ – Thinking Colossians 2:6 – 3:17

- What identity truths do you see in this passage?
 - Made complete - 2:10
 - We are in Him. This is throughout.
 - Buried with Him in baptism. 2:12 Made alive - 2:13
 - Sin debt cancelled. 2:14
 - Died with Christ - 2:20
 - Raised with Christ - 3:1
 - Died and our life is hidden with Christ. V3:3
 - Chosen of God, holy, and beloved. 3:12

Identity in Christ - Thinking

- We are in the ongoing care of the risen Savior.
 - Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. (NASB)

Identity in Christ - Attitude

- What philosophies or traditions of men are taking us captive in 2026?
- What things are challenging our Biblical world view?
- What captivates you in this life?
- What captures your time, your attention, and your affection?

Identity in Christ – Attitude

Colossians 2:6 – 3:17

- Where do you see attitude statements in this passage?
 - Rooted and established 2:6
 - Not holding fast to Christ. 2:18-19
 - The Colossians were submitting themselves to the elementary principles of the world instead of Christ. 2:20-23.
 - Keep seeking the above. 3:1
 - Set your minds on things above. 3:2
 - Consider the members of your earthly body as dead. 3:3
 - Put on the new self (identity). 3:10
 - Let the peace of Christ 3:15.
 - Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you. 3:16

Identity in Christ - Attitude

- How does our thinking about our identity affect our attitude?
- Do we agree with this statement? What we believe to be true about our standing with God will control our attitude and actions in every situation.

Identity in Christ - Attitude

- If we believe that we must prove our salvation to ourselves or those around us to ensure or secure our eternity, we will approach every sin and every relationship in a way that seeks behavioral change. We will constantly look at the fruit of our lives while neglecting the root.

Identity in Christ - Attitude

- “This appeal is not for deeds, but for a life filled with thoughts of the heavenly position; for a mind occupied with Christ and His glory, instead of the passing things of this world.” – Strombeck – Disciplined by Grace

Identity in Christ – Action

Colossians 2:6 – 3:17

- Where do you see attitudes lived out in action?
 - Overflowing with gratitude. 2:7
 - The results of a legalistic life. 2:8-23
 - The results of a life of a mind set on the things above. 3:5 - 14
 - Leading others from a mind set on the things above. 3:15 – 17

Identity in Christ - Action

- How does understanding our identity in Christ impact how we lead?
 - When I am convinced of my acceptance by God, when I am secure in my identity, I can be the leader God wants when I face temptations, when adversity is commonplace in my life, when I receive criticism, and ...
 - Allows me to accept correction from others with grace.

Identity in Christ - Action

- How should that change our perspective on leading others?
 - Knowing that followers are also “in Christ” regulates how I view them and how I engage with their sins and failures. I can appeal to them based on grace rather than demand performance or threatening judgment.

Conclusion

- Are we living out of our position or identity? What is your normal worldview? Legalism or license? What does a life lived out of grace look like?
 - Our thinking controls our attitude and actions. James 1:13 – 15
 - We must remember that God does not threaten to stop loving us because of our sin. He loves us despite it. Nothing, and that includes us, can separate us from the love of God. Romans 8:31-39
 - The gifts and calling of God are irrevocable. Romans 11:29
 - Offering our bodies as a living sacrifice is our reasonable service. Romans 12:2

The Gospel – Homework for June 28

- Memorize: 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
- How do I define the Gospel? What are the essentials I need to know to have eternal life with Christ?
- What truths about the Gospel does our case study couple need to understand? Based on her actions (admitted adultery) does Maggie have a personal relationship with Jesus?
- How does an incorrect understanding of the gospel impact my thinking, attitude, and actions?
- How can I use the gospel to train others in leadership?