

Consider-ables w/Rick Warren

Your Lasting Identity Comes from God's Family

By Rick Warren

“You are members of God's very own family . . . and you belong in God's household with every other Christian” (Ephesians 2:19 TLB).

Much of our identity is based upon our relationships. I'm a grandson. I'm a son. I'm a husband. I'm a grandfather. I'm a team member. I'm a small group member. I'm a pastor. I'm an employer. I'm all those things. Those relationships help to define who I am.

We know who we are in relationship to other people. People who have gone through a divorce or the death of a spouse know this. When that relationship ends, many people have trouble coming to grips with who they are. Or if they've been laid off from a job that's been tied to their identity, it can be really tough to get clarity with their identity. That's why God wants us to gain our identity from a relationship that'll never end: our relationship with his family.

The Bible says, *“You are members of God's very own family . . . and you belong in God's household with every other Christian”* (Ephesians 2:19 TLB).

It doesn't matter what family you've had in the past. Your identity doesn't come from it. Your identity comes from your relationship with God's family.

In fact, your physical family was just a channel to get you into God's family. God used your parents—whether they were good parents or bad parents—to bring you into the world. But his real goal wasn't to keep you in that family; it was to put you in *his* family.

Your spiritual family is actually more important than your physical family. Physical families don't last forever. People grow up. They move away. They get divorced. They die.

Your spiritual family will last forever. When that's what your identity is built upon, it'll last.



God is Watching Over
FOR HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING
YOU TO GUARD YOU IN ALL YOUR WAYS.
PSALM 91:11

Responsive Reading: Psalm 122:1, 4b-9

ALL: I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

North: It was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
For there the thrones for judgment were set up,
the thrones of the house of David.

South: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
*“May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls,
and security within your towers.”*

North: For the sake of my relatives and friends
I will say, *“Peace be within you.”*

South: For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek your good.

ALL: Let's say together:
“We rejoice as we go to the house of the LORD.”



Lesson: Isaiah 58:9b-14

IF you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil...**IF** you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted...

...**then** your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

IF you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day...**IF** you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable...**IF** you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs...

...**then** you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. Just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years; she was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight.

When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "*Woman, you are set free from your ailment.*"

When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God.

Now, the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "*There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the Sabbath day.*"

But the Lord answered him and said, "*You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?*"

When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

REMEMBER THE
SABBATH DAY
BY KEEPING IT **HOLY.**
EXODUS 20:8



- Dear Pastor, I know God loves everybody, but He never met my sister. Yours sincerely, Arnold. Age 8, Nashville.
- Dear Pastor, Please say in your sermon that Peter Peterson has been a good boy all week. I am Peter Peterson. Sincerely, Pete. Age 9, Phoenix
- Dear Pastor, My father should be a minister. Every day he gives us a sermon about something. Robert Anderson, age 11
- Dear Pastor, I'm sorry I can't leave more money in the plate, but my father didn't give me a raise in my allowance. Could you have a sermon about a raise in my allowance? Love, Patty. Age 10, New Haven
- Dear Pastor, My mother is very religious. She goes to play bingo at church every week even if she has a cold. Yours truly, Annette. Age 9, Albany
- Dear Pastor, I would like to go to heaven someday because I know my brother won't be there. Stephen. Age 8, Chicago
- Dear Pastor, I think a lot more people would come to your church if you moved it to Disneyland. Loreen. Age 9. Tacoma
- Dear Pastor, I liked your sermon where you said that good health is more important than money, but I still want a raise in my allowance. Sincerely, Eleanor. Age 12, Sarasota
- Dear Pastor, Please pray for all the airline pilots. I am flying to California tomorrow. Laurie. Age 10, New York City
- Dear Pastor, I hope to go to heaven some day but later than sooner. Love, Ellen, age 9. Athens
- Dear Pastor, Please say a prayer for our Little League team. We need God's help or a new pitcher. Thank you. Alexander. Age 10, Raleigh
- Dear Pastor, My father says I should learn the Ten Commandments. But I don't think I want to because we have enough rules already in my house. Joshua. Age 10, South Pasadena
- Dear Pastor, Who does God pray to? Is there a God for God? Sincerely, Christopher. Age 9, Titusville

Upcoming Events

Sunday school begins Sept. 8th. Interested in teaching? See Pr. Rob! We need one more teacher!!

Men's Group meets Sept. 7th and monthly thru Dec. @ 8:30am

Women's Group meets on Wednesdays starting Sept. 11th and every other week afterwards thru Nov. 20th (7:00-8:30pm)



Ministry signups . . .

Readers, Ushers, Treat-suppliers, and communion-stewards needed! Please sign up on the lists posted on the office door!!

Calendar...

- ✓ **Next Council Meeting – September 10th @6:30**
- ✓ **Confirmation – September 15th**
- ✓ **Next Communion – September 15th**