

City Church Network - Tuesday Fellowship

November 12, 2019

“Identity #6: Sojourner identity”

facilitated by Wim Codington (cell: 423.505.6411; email: wimcodington@gmail.com)

Goal for discussion of tri-fold of identity (ambassador, sojourner, warrior) for followers of Jesus:

- For each follower of Jesus to learn to recognize and understand the cultural assault on the Christian identities of ambassador, sojourner, and warrior
- For these identities to become rooted and established in the consciousness of followers of Jesus so that they motivate daily decisions

Bible passages examined:

- I Peter 2:9-12
- Philippians 3:17-21
- Matthew 6:19-21
- John 15:1-11
- Hebrews 11:13-16
- Revelation 21:3

Questions for discussion:

- What barriers exist in my heart and life to having my identity as a sojourner rooted and established in my consciousness so that it impacts my daily decisions?

Thoughts and ideas shared after reading the passages above:

- Human nature, divine and corrupted
 - We all long for “home.” We are hard-wired to seek home with people and places. This is a God-given desire.
 - Our corrupted nature seeks home apart from God. We seek the right house, the right neighborhood, the right apartment, the right location, the right roommate, the right city, the right furnishings, etc. (Wim’s story of searching for these things) Again, the *desire* is right. The *object* of the desire is what we need to choose very carefully.
- Thoughts about “home”:
 - Physical comfort and security
 - Spiritual wholeness
 - Safety
 - Community
 - Happiness
 - Memories
 - Welcoming / hospitality



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- Produces devotion and loyalty
- Family
- Belonging
- For ministers: First disciples should be in the family / home
- Home is a place of discipleship
- A person on a journey
- What is a sojourner?
 - Traveler
 - A person that is not in a permanent place
- Elements of sojourning:
 - Facing enemies
 - Citizenship
 - Holding on to the promise of home
 - Already but not yet
 - Paradox
 - Foretaste
- What is abiding?
 - Staying with
 - Being connected to
 - Resting (not striving)
 - Passive (not active)
 - Remaining
 - Dwelling / living
- Being human includes being, knowing, and doing
- True sojourner identity
 - *All followers of Jesus in the world are here on a temporary assignment that will be completed one day before we move to our true home with God in heaven. We are not at home in the world. We are at home in God. God is at home in us.*
- Cultural and other barriers to this identity
 - Belief that this world is all there is
 - Inadequate conception of heaven as infinitely glorious and wonderful
 - It's hard to understand and live in the tension of the "now" vs. "not yet" dynamic of being home and sojourning.
 - Overthinking
 - American dream
 - Fear of purposelessness that can tempt us to seek fulfillment in this life apart from God
 - Pride / arrogance about our possessions / image
 - Others?

