

A Peculiar Identity (Romans 12:3)

Peculiar People (Romans 12-13) pt. 2

THE BIG IDEA

Christians have a peculiar identity that starts with grace, is grounded in reality, and is defined by God's word.

OPENING

- If someone asked, "Who are you?", how would you respond?
- If the various ways we define ourselves are like the layers in an onion, which layer do you tend to default to? (the sermon mentioned family, race/ethnicity, nationality, desires, job, groups, and ideals).

DIGGING DEEPER

- Theologian Marva Dawn defines God's grace this way: "*God's overflowing, flowing, infinitely wise love, freely given, though undeserved served and never repayable.*"¹ With this definition in mind, read 1 Corinthians 15:15. How did grace define Paul's identity?
- How can we develop "sober judgment" about ourselves?
- The sermon suggested that the "deadly sins" often intoxicate us, resulting in us not being "sober" in our judgment about ourselves. Which of the following "deadly sins" is the most challenging?²
Pride: Intoxicated by self-importance

¹Marva Dawn, *Truly the Community: Romans 12 and How to Be the Church* (Eerdmans, 1997).

²Lists of the "Deadly Sins" vary throughout church history. For more on this, see Todd Hunter, *Our Favorite Sins: The Sins we Commit and How we can Quit* (Thomas Nelson, 2012).

Despair (Acedia): Intoxicated by powerlessness
Envy: Intoxicated by discontentment
Lust: Intoxicated by unbridled desires
Gluttony: Intoxicated by overindulgence
Wrath: Intoxicated by uncontrolled rage, anger, or hatred.

- Which of the following truths about your identity is the most difficult for you to accept?
 - You are made in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27)*
 - You are sinful in known and unknown ways (Romans 3:23; Jeremiah 17:9)*
 - You are redeemed through Christ (Titus 2:14)*
 - You are a child in God's family (Romans 8:15)*
 - You are a work in progress (2 Corinthians 3:18).*
 - You grow when you suffer (Romans 5:3-5).*
 - You are certain of your outcome (Romans 8:18-19)*

PUTTING IT TO WORK

- Spend time this week praying the list above, thanking God for your identity and asking God to help you live into this reality.
 - Example: "God thank you for making me in Your image. Help me live as Your image bearer this week."

PRAYER REQUESTS