

## YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST AND YOUR BEHAVIOR

Ephesians 4:1-5:20

### Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What about you defines who you are? Identify 2-3 characteristics that you think are important to your identity.
- Have any of your characteristics changed over time, for example, students graduate and are no longer students, some people get married/divorced, or children make people parents. Have any of those changes made it necessary to change your behavior in some or all circumstances? Why?

How often do you experience that “now what?” feeling? You have just received new and valuable information, but you aren’t sure what to do with it. It’s natural to want to understand practically, not just theoretically, how to apply it to your life. Believing in Jesus Christ and learning more about our faith is no different. In Ephesians, the Apostle Paul first teaches about Christ’s salvation and what it means for God’s people. But in chapters 4 and 5, he gets to that “now what?” question. Studying Paul’s instructions to the Ephesians helps us better understand our identity in Jesus Christ and how it impacts all aspects of our lives. It also provides useful guidance for how we should behave and engage in our world today and unpacks why our behavior matters.

**Listen:** [\*Your Identity in Christ and Your Behavior\*](#)

### Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Twice in this episode, hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney discuss Paul’s instructions about our words. They discuss the type of words Paul calls sinful: falsehoods, unwholesome talk, obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, and deceptive talk. When do you find it easiest to avoid sinful words? When do you find it the most challenging?
- Scott and Darrell also discuss Paul’s instruction to only speak words that are truthful, build each other up, and give thanksgiving. How might you remind yourself to speak life-giving words this week, especially in your most challenging situations?
- Reread Ephesians 5:5. Did it surprise you that Paul called immorality, impurity, and greed idolatry? Why do you think he considers those three sins equal to idolatry?
- In Segment 3, Darrell talks about being drunk with wine, noting that Paul was knowledgeable about the Ephesians’ environment and knew that for the Ephesians wine was constantly to their left and right “at their every disposal.” What else today might you compare to wine? What other things make our environment a challenging place to live out our faith, things that are constantly around us and easily at our disposal?
- In segment 3, Darrell and Scott discuss being filled with wine and being filled with the Spirit. Compare those two “fillings.” Who in your life exemplifies each? Why?

## Related Passages

- **Galatians 5:13-25**  
*An example of Paul's other vice lists*
- **Colossians 3:1-17**  
*An example of Paul's other vice lists*
- **Matthew 5:13-16**

## Conclusion

Wisdom is a gift of the Holy Spirit. Every time you pray this next week, pray for wisdom. Ask God to reveal any ways your behavior might be contrary to your identity in Christ and pray for the Holy Spirit's wisdom and help to expunge that behavior from your life.

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<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/your-identity-in-christ-and-your-behavior>

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