

Your Identity in Christ and Your Behavior

Whether you are a new Christian, a life-long believer, or fall somewhere in between, it's natural to have questions about how your faith should influence your choices and behavior. Does faith only influence our church attendance or does it impact our jobs, our sex life, and the everyday words we speak? In Ephesians, the Apostle Paul tells the Christians in Ephesus that believing in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior should change your behavior, in all spheres of your life, because your very identity comes from Christ. Thankfully, Paul also teaches us what our new identity in Christ means for us and provides guidance and instruction for how we should live and behave in light of this reality.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- 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?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [*Your Identity in Christ and Your Behavior*](#)

READ [Ephesians 4:1-5:20](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- 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 for further study

[Galatians 5:13-25](#), [Colossians 3:1-17](#), [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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