



Holy Trinity
Combe Down



St Andrew's
Community Church

Discussion Questions 12 January 2025
Sermon Series: Who Am I?
Forgiven, Redeemed, and United with Christ
Ephesians 1:1-14

Pray and read passage.

As we wrestle with identity in this sermon series, consider the following from Sunday's sermon:

"Often we allow other things to shape [us]. We allow our insecurities to shape us; we allow comparison with others to shape us; we allow greed; or impulse to shape us. We allow fear to shape us. We allow the media to shape us."

1. Do you resonate with any of those in particular? Why do you think this is often the case, even for Christians?
2. Paul uses the phrase 'in Christ' (or 'in him') 11 times in this short passage. It is clearly an important idea. What do you understand it to mean?
3. Following the plane analogy (explain for any who haven't managed to listen to the sermon!), the question is not 'how much faith do you have?' but rather, 'where are you?'. How might that encourage those who are struggling with their faith?
4. Re-read v.3. Which of the 'blessings in Christ' which Paul goes on to list do you find most exciting or comforting (and why)? Take time to share and encourage one another.
5. These 'spiritual blessings' come through being united to Jesus by faith, and are worked in us by the Holy Spirit (hence blessings 'of the Spirit'). Take time to pray now for the work of the Spirit in each of us, especially if there are blessings which some in the group are struggling to believe apply to them.

"If these first two sermons have been true then you are made in the likeness of God: of ultimate worth. And you are IN Christ. Which means you have been chosen by God, you have been redeemed, you have been forgiven, you have been adopted, you have been marked with the Holy Spirit, you have had love lavished on you. You are loved. You are family. And none of it depends on your personality, or strength of faith, or good looks, or money, or skills, or education, or connections. It depends on being in the plane."

6. Take time to discuss what difference the truths in the quotation above would/should/could make to your sense of identity. You might like to consider how it would affect some of the following:

- Your feelings about yourself
- Your feelings towards those close to you
- Your feelings towards material things/money
- Your feelings about evangelism
- Your sense of purpose/meaning in life

Pray.

Tim Lewis