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| **SERIES** | **Discipleship 101: 9 Week Challenge** |
| **BIBLE** | **Colossians 3:1-17, 2 Corinthians 5:17**  |
| **TITLE/TOPIC** | **Pt 1 - Identity** |
| **OVERVIEW** | Disciples are people who have been transformed. 2 Cor 5:17 says, “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” To become a follower of Jesus is to be given a new identity – a new core basis of who we are; that which defines us, guides us and gives us purpose.  |
| **SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN** | **Your identity in Christ is what every aspect of your life should be in sync with – Colossians 3:1-4*** We’re told to “seek” the things above, or “set your heart on things above.” The language here is similar to calibrating something, or getting things in sync. Think about a guitar being tuned – the string is calibrated or put in sync with what a certain note is.
* We are told to get our lives in-sync, tuned to, set on Christ. Why? Because the old us is gone (vs3) and the new us in Christ. This is the same idea as 2 Cor 5:17 – you are a new person; you have a new identity. Since that is true – then how you think and how you live your life needs to be tuned to Jesus and not any part of the culture.

**Your identity in Christ calls you to destroy the parts of you that aren’t holy – Colossians 3:5-11*** Vs 5 says, “Put to death what is earthly in you.”
	+ There can’t be room for error here. It is saying, “end these things; don’t allow them to breath, destroy these aspects of your old story.”
	+ Catch the build here from the last section: tune your life to the things of Christ, tune your life to your identity in Christ – and anything that is part of our old life, any out of tune cycle that has been passed on to you: destroy it! Kill it! Don’t allow it to exist!
* If you had mice or rats in your house, you wouldn’t make them as pets. You’d exterminate them! Everything of your old life is a rodent running around in your life, and it needs to be removed! No excuses! No taking pets of things which should be exterminated!
* Cross ref’s: Galatians 5:24, 1 Peter 2:11, Romans 6;13

 **Your identity in Christ equips and guides you how to live as a disciple – Colossians 3:12-17*** We must make a conscious decision to be faithful to the life which Jesus has given us. He has made us new; we must live that new life. Thankfully, he gives us guidance and strength.
* Paul first reminds us of our identity – chosen, holy & beloved.
* Paul then says how chosen, holy & beloved people live – they consciously put on compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, bearing with one another, forgiveness, love, peace and thankfulness.
* And he makes it really clear in vs 17, there isn’t one minute or one scenario in our lives where we aren’t chosen, holy & beloved people who need to put these things on.
* Think about your life – when you tune things to Jesus and exterminate the old rats, what does it look at home, at school, at work, in your neighborhood dressed in these character traits?
* Cross ref’s – Eph 4:1, Gal 5:16, 1 Peter 1:14-15
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| **GOSPEL** | How does this sermon bring people to the Gospel?Comparing what the culture offers to what Jesus offers; how the “old life” never satisfies, it is only in Him that we find the life we were made for.  |
| **NEXT**STEPS | Begin | Connect | Engage | Grow | Disciple   |