Week 2: Who Am I?  

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-17.

Am I African? American? A man? A professor? A southerner? A relocated northerner? Baptist? Pentecostal? A father, husband, son? Who am I? This age-old question seems to have taken on new meanings in the last year or so as debates over racial and gender identity, sexuality, and Southern pride have resonated throughout our country. As it turns out, this kind of questioning and searching is not so strange.

Popular sentiment suggests that our attitudes, including some of our deeply held beliefs, are impacted by our experiences with other people. Our assumptions, stereotypes, even prejudices about certain groups can change when we meet and get to know real people with real stories. In other words, who I am, is based in part, on who I know. Fortunately, the university community affords us unique and exciting opportunities to get to know each other in genuine ways and to hear our respective stories.

What an opportunity! Who you know changes who you are. It’s true when it comes to knowing other people. It’s even more amazing when it comes to knowing Christ. Knowing him has radically shaped who I am. I’m literally not who I used to be. As the text says, “everything has become new!” Knowing Christ is not just an academic exercise or the acquisition of facts. It changes your world from the inside out.

Life Question: What aspects of your identity need to take a back seat to your new identity in Christ?

Prayer: Lord, help me to know you so well that I find my identity in you. Change me on the inside in ways that show up on the outside. In Jesus’ name, amen.

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