



**Teaching Notes:** Ray Davis

November 6, 2011

**How It Changes Everything!**

## desert breeze community church

### Acts 21:37-22:30 "Identity Theft"

ID theft costs Americans millions. There's a more serious ID theft that will cost you what money can't buy. Understanding your identity in Christ is absolutely essential to your success at living the Christian life.

### Acts 21:37-40

- Everyone is building their identity on something.
- Your identity is what gives you a sense of meaning & purpose. vv37-38
- Identity apart from God is inherently unstable & the essence of sin.
- Your Identity must go deeper than name, nationality, what you do, where you live, & the roles you play. v39

### Acts 22:1-11

- An encounter with Christ (becoming a Christian) is about having a major identity change (crisis). (2Cor. 5:17, 21; Gal.2:20)

### Verses 12-16

- We all need people in our lives that help to reinforce our identity in Christ. vv12-13 (Acts 2:42; Heb. 3:12-13, 10:24-25)
- Our identity is an immediate status change the moment we put our faith in the person & work of Jesus Christ that gives us everything we need for fullness of life in Him. vv14-16 (Ps. 23:1; John 6:35; Eph. 1:3)
- This status change is objectively immediate but subjectively it must be worked into every area of our lives. v16 (Phil.2:12-13; Col.3:12-17)

### Verses 17-21

- Our identity change in Christ is fundamentally about Lordship. (Luke 6:46-49; Matt. 7:21-23)

### Verses 22-30

- The more you live in the reality of your identity in Christ the more you will not just survive but truly thrive in any & every circumstance. (John 10:10; Phil.4:11-13; 2 Pet. 1:3)



# Growing

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- 1) Is who you are determined by what you do or is what you do determined by who you are? How important is that question in light of finding the basis of your identity? Regardless of the basis of your identity your behavior will always reflect what you truly believe about yourself. Explain. How important is identity?
- 2) Read Acts 21:37-40. How does Paul use his identity to clear up his mistaken identity? What does it mean that everyone is building an identity & it gives us a sense of meaning & purpose? Why is an Identity apart from God inherently unstable & the essence of sin?
- 3) Why must your identity go deeper than name, nationality, what you do, where you live, & the roles you play? Read Acts 22:1-11. How is becoming a Christian a major identity change (2Cor. 5:17, 21; Gal.2:20)?
- 4) Read Acts 22:12-16. Though our identity is an objective immediate status change, subjectively it must be worked into every area of our lives. Explain. What identify benefits can you list from vv14-16? Read Acts 22:17-21. How is our identity change in Christ fundamentally about Lordship & how is Paul struggling with it in these verses?
- 5) Read Acts 22:22-30. Why is it that the more you live in the reality of your identity in Christ the more you will not just survive but truly thrive in any & every circumstance? In what area of your life do you need to apply this? Make it your prayer.

### Lordship Test:

- 1) Am I willing to obey God in every area of my life regardless of how I feel?
- 2) Am I willing to thank God for whatever happens in my life regardless of whether I understand it or not?
- 3) Is there anything in my life that I am relying on for my hope & meaning more than God?
- 4) Are there problems or limitations in my life that I think are too big for God to remove?

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