



K N O W I N G W H O Y O U A R E I N C H R I S T

I D E N T I T Y

& W H A T T O D O I N A C O N F U S E D W O R L D .



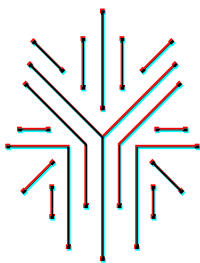
A S I X - W E E K S T U D Y



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I D E N T I T Y

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A S I X - W E E K S T U D Y

IDENTITY

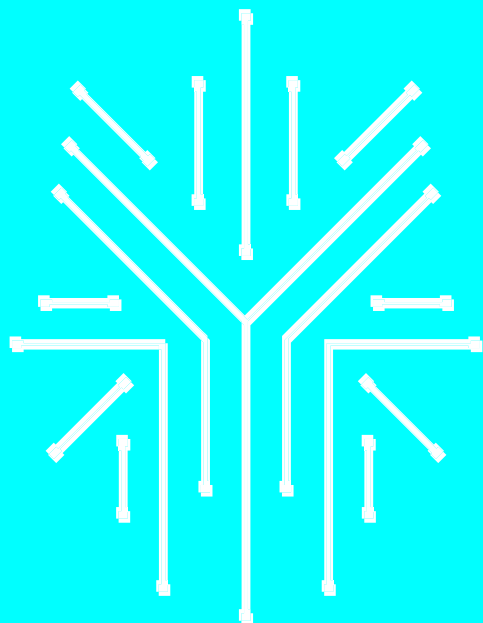
Knowing Who You Are In Christ & What to Do In a Confused World

Two Cities Church

twocitieschurch.net

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D I S C I P L E S O F J E S U S A R E

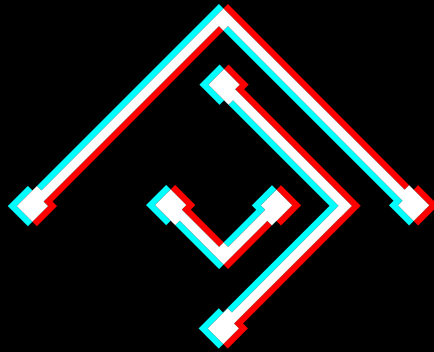
WORSHIPPERS

FAMILY

WITNESSES

STEWARDS

SERVANTS



STEWARD

USES THEIR TIME, TALENTS, &
TREASURE TO KNOW GOD &
MAKE HIM KNOWN



The Christian life is one of constant service to Christ and others.

Having your identity found in Christ is more than a mere label. It's more than a simple description without practical meaning, as we've learned already in the previous three sessions. Following Jesus — truly following him and laying down your life for the sake of Christ — is a complete identity transformation.

Throughout the New Testament when Jesus calls people to follow him, he challenges them to leave their old lives behind. We briefly covered this in the introduction, but Jesus says leave behind who you are and step into who you were created to be. He says leave behind your job. Leave behind your money. Leave behind your family. In this session, as we begin to understand what it means to be a steward of all that God has given, we will come to realize that God transforms us in order that we learn what it means to steward all that he has given. It's not about our jobs. It's not about how much money we have. It's not about the ways we're gifted. It's not about our family. Our lives are about him and are to be lived and leveraged for him.

As we follow Christ, we leverage everything he has graciously given us for the expansion of his kingdom and his mission. This means that we use our jobs, our money, our abilities, and our circles of influence for the sake of his name, his glory, and his purposes. How we explain it at Two Cities is this: a steward uses their time, talents, and treasure to know God and make him known.



READ MARK 1:14-20

Q: What were the implications of Jesus' call to the disciples?



YOUR TIME

It's easy for us to think of our time as our own. If we aren't careful, we can begin to think that we deserve to use our time however we want. This is not the way of Jesus. Instead of hoarding the time in our schedules for our own purposes, we must use the time we have well for the sake of Christ and his Kingdom. This means being wise about how we use our time, not spending our days flippantly on things that don't matter. Whether we are retired, a college student, or a mother and father of four, God calls us to use the time he has given us well and with great purpose. After all, he is the reason we have breath in our lungs.



READ MATTHEW 25:14-30

Q: What words or phrases come to mind when you think of the word stewardship?

Q: Knowing the time you've been given is from God, how does that change how you use it?



YOUR TALENTS

God has made every single one of his children different. Paul explains this in his first letter to the Corinthians. Paul says that God has given us gifts and abilities that are different than our neighbor, our best friend, our spouse, and our children. Along with those gifts, he has given us passions. In the same way a craftsman fashions a tool for a specific purpose, God has made each of his children with a unique combination of gifts and abilities in order to serve in the encouragement and flourishing of his church. It's not God's design that we all have the same jobs and the same responsibilities and the same talents. However, it is God's design that we all use our gifts, passions, and abilities to serve God's people. And we can do that anywhere.



READ EPHESIANS 4:11-16

Q: What specific talents has God given you? What have others affirmed in you?

Q: How affectively have you been able to use your talents and abilities to serve God's people?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT					ALL FOR HIM OR NOT AT ALL				

Q: What are obstacles to using your gifts and abilities to serve Christ?



YOUR TREASURE

By now, we see that God doesn't just want one isolated part of our lives — he wants all of us. He wants us to use our time for the sake of his Kingdom. He has given us gifts and abilities to use for the sake of his Kingdom. And he knows that we become good stewards of what he's given us when he — not the gifts he gives us — is the object of our worship. For many, the most difficult area of stewardship is our money. But God wants us to use this for his purposes just as much as he wants us to use our time and our talents.

It's so easy for us to find purpose, security, and joy in what we've stored up for ourselves in our bank accounts. God wants us to use the money he has given us as a tool for the forwarding of the gospel, not worship it. The faithful follower of Christ uses what God graciously gives while continuing to worship him above all else.

We have said it before this way:

+ WE GIVE TO HONOR GOD.

+ WE SAVE TO BE WISE.

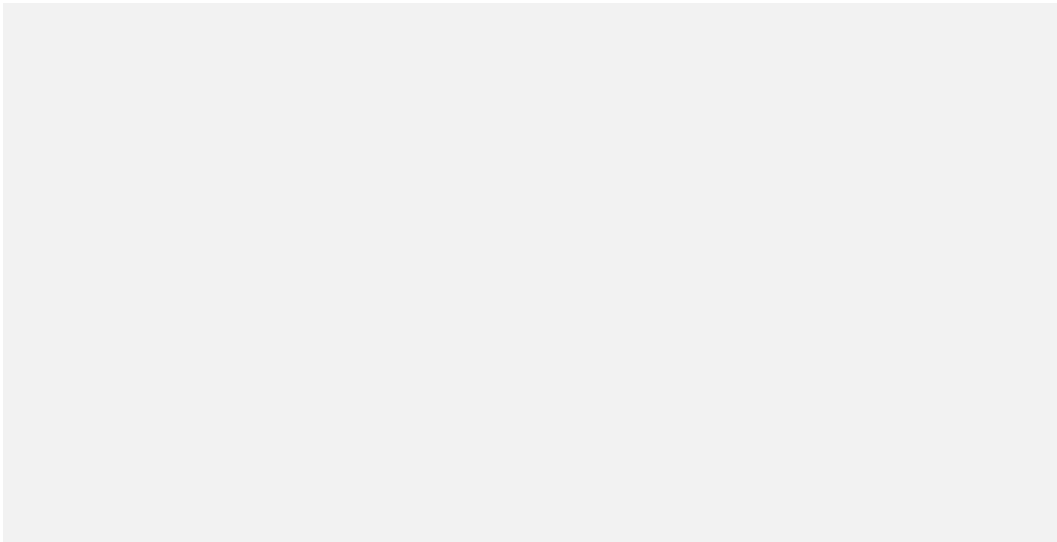
+ WE LIVE OFF THE REST TO TEACH OURSELVES CONTENTMENT.

This session isn't the easiest to take in. Much of our abilities, our time, and our money shape our identities. God is calling us to a higher road and a better way. He wants us to let him inform our identity, and when that happens, our time, talents, and treasure can be used for his name and not our own.



READ MATTHEW 19:16-30

Q: *Why is the worship of our money such an easy temptation for us? Why is it hard to sacrifice?*



MY TIME

Use the space below to answer the following questions



PLACES I CAN ADD MARGIN IN MY SCHEDULE



WAYS TO STEWARD THESE TIMES WELL FOR GOD'S KINGDOM



GOALS I NEED TO SET TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN

MY TALENTS

Use the space below to answer the following questions



MY GIFTS AND ABILITIES



WAYS TO STEWARD THESE GIFTS WELL FOR GOD'S KINGDOM



GOALS I NEED TO SET TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN

MY TREASURE

Use the space below to answer the following questions



PLACES I CAN INCREASE MY GENEROSITY IN MY BUDGET



WAYS TO STEWARD MY MONEY WELL FOR GOD'S KINGDOM



GOALS I NEED TO SET TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN

