

May 28, 2017

## I.D.

### “Ephesians – A Journey of Identification”

#### “I Am a Servant”

**“By God’s grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News.”**  
*Ephesians 3:7*

#### A. I serve by...

**“By God’s grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News.”** Vs 7

1. God’s grace for me,
2. God’s power in me.
3. God’s giftings to me.

**“And this is God’s plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God’s children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus.”** Vs 6

#### B. I serve because...

**“Though I am the least deserving of all God’s people, he graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ. I was chosen to explain...”** Vs 8-9a

1. Christ lives in me.
2. Christ loves me.
3. Christ created me to serve.

**“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”** *Ephesians 2:10*

#### C. I am most motivated to serve as I think about His great love for me...

**“I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.”** Vs 16-19

1. God’s love is so wide...it encompasses all of us!

*“[God] He loves each one of us, as if there were only one of us.” -Augustine*

2. God’s love is so long...it is eternal, never-ending, long-suffering, patient.

*“The love of God is one of the greatest realities of the universe, a pillar upon which the hope of the world rests. But it is a personal, intimate thing too. God does not love populations, He loves people. He loves not masses, but men.” –A.W.Tozer*

3. God’s love is so high...it is the very best and highest of all...it is perfect!

*“I can no more do justice to this awesome and wonder-filled topic than a child can grasp a star. Still, by reaching toward the star the child may call attention to it and even indicate the direction one must look to see it. And so, I stretch my heart toward the high, shining love of God so that we may be encouraged to look up and have hope.” –A.W.Tozer*

4. God loves is so deep...it is absolutely solid and real...it reaches to the deepest parts of our being!

*“In the Gospel, we discover we are far worse off than we thought, and far more loved than we ever dreamed.” –Stephen Curtis Chapman*

**“Your unending love, O LORD, is as vast as the heavens; your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the ocean depths. You care for people and animals alike, O LORD. How precious is your unending love, O God! All humanity finds shelter in the shadow of your wings. You feed them from the abundance of your own house, letting them drink from your river of delights. For you are the fountain of life, the light by which we see. Pour out your unending love on those who love you; give justice to those with honest hearts.”** *Psalm 26:5-10*

*Know and treasure how the Word defines God’s love for the believers:*

– So loved (*John 3:16; 1 John 4:11*)

– Love that endures forever (*1 Chron. 16:34*)

– Abounding love (*Ps. 36:5*)

– Wonderful love (*Ps. 31:21*)

– Great love, reaching to the heavens (*Ps. 57:10*)

– Love that is better than life (*Ps. 63:3*)

– Great love (*Ps. 36:13*)

– How great is the love the Father lavished on us (*1 John 3:1*)

– For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love (*Ps. 103:11*)

– Love that stands firm forever (*Ps 89:2*)

– Unfailing love (*Ps 107:2*).

– How priceless is His unfailing love (*Ps 36:7*)

– Love that is from everlasting to everlasting (*Ps. 103:17*)

#### D. I serve knowing...

1. Nothing is too hard for God!

**“O Sovereign LORD! You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for you!”** *Jeremiah 32:17*

2. No one can stop God’s plan!

**“I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you.”** *Job 42:2*

3. He made all things and all things serve Him!

**“Your regulations remain true to this day, for everything serves your plans.”** *Psalm 119:91*

4. He does whatever He pleases! (*And that’s ok!*)

**“Our God is in the heavens, and he does as he wishes.”** *Psalm 115:3*

5. He is able to save completely!

**“For the LORD your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.”** *Zephaniah 3:17*

6. He cannot be predicted or limited! He is able to do above my expectations and my imagination!

**“Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.”** *Ephesians 3:20*

#### E. Lord, I am your servant...

1. Real servants make themselves available to serve.
2. Real servants pay attention to needs.
3. Real servants do their best with what they have.
4. Real servants do every task with equal dedication.
5. Real servants remain faithful to their ministry.
6. Real servants maintain a low profile.
7. Real servants think more about others than themselves.
8. Real servants think like loaners, not owners.
9. Real servants think about their work, not what others are saying.
10. Real servants base their identity on Christ.\*

**“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”**

**Matthew 20:28**

\*Rick Warren, Purpose Driven Life

June 4, 2017 “I Am United” *Ephesians 4:1-16*

June 11, 2017 “I Am Filled” *Ephesians 4:17-5:20*

June 18, 2017 “I Am Related” *Ephesians 5:21-6:9*

June 25, 2017 “I Am a Warrior” *Ephesians 6:10-24*