

Beautiful Together

2 Peter 1:1-15

SESSION ONE

Beautiful Identity

1 Peter 1:1-2

Our IDENTITY in Christ

If we want to live in the fullness of our identity in Christ – if we want to flourish and fully contribute to the beauty of the body of Christ – we cannot allow our past to continue to define us.

- Peter does not remind us of his past. There's no mention of his life before Christ (fisherman, successful fishing business owner), his prestige as a disciple (first chosen, inner circle, walked on water, witness to Jesus' transfiguration), or his failings as a disciple (rebuffed by Jesus, fell asleep when instructed to pray, deserted Jesus when He was arrested, and denied his Savior three times).
- Peter knew his past identities, successes, and failures faded in importance when measured against the one identity that truly mattered—his identity in Christ Jesus.

Our POSITION in Christ

- Before God, in Jesus Christ, we have **equal standing: equal privilege, equal access, equal treatment by God, equal opportunity.**
- Are your standing firm in your position in Christ Jesus? Are your eyes fixed on today and moving forward in your faith, or are you constantly looking backwards? Is grace and peace growing in your life?

TRUE BEAUTY

- Is **Personal**: it knows and embraces its identity.
- Knows its **Pedigree**: it has a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and the indwelling Holy Spirit of God.
- Is not **External**: it emerges from the heart and is demonstrated in spirit, attitude, words, and actions.
- Has **Perspective**: it's not a prisoner of its past. It is not dragged down or held captive by its prior identity.
- Is **Purposeful**: it is propelled forward by its purpose.