



Life Group Notes

Who am I? Our True Identity

Session 5: I am God's masterpiece

Opening questions:

If you are a creative person, whether musical, artistic, a poet, an author, a dressmaker, a passionate gardener, a home decorator, an events co-ordinator.... have you ever created something perfect that came out just as you hoped? Probably not! So how did you feel and what did you do?

Read: Genesis 1. 26-31

- What was the crown of God's creation? How did he feel about it?
- What does it mean, that God made man in his own image? List aspects of God's character which we see exhibited by human beings throughout history, even if they don't believe in him. In our own day, consider David Attenborough, Gareth Southgate, John Rutter.

Shakespeare has Hamlet say:

*What piece of work is a man, how noble in reason,
how infinite in faculties, in form and moving,
how express and admirable in action,
how like an angel in apprehension,
how like a god!*

- So what went wrong? Read Genesis 3, noting especially verses 2-5, 11. Imagine the anguish of God's cry in verses 9 and 13.

Now read: Ephesians 2. 1-10, and also 1 Corinthians 15. 21-22; 2 Corinthians 5.17

- Do you believe that 'you were dead in your transgressions and sins' before you became a Christian? Dead in what sense? In what sense did Adam 'bring death into the world'?
- Notice the qualities of love, mercy and grace which Paul says motivated God to 'make us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions.' In what ways have you experienced God's love, mercy and grace?
- Can you accept that you are 'a new creation'? Did you feel different when you accepted Jesus? How have you changed since?
- Think about this in the context of our previous reflections, on being chosen and blameless. In what ways has this series enriched your understanding of who you are?

Respond:

- Look at Ephesians 2. 8-10. What should be the outcome of our salvation? Talk and pray in twos and threes about this. Are we 'doing good works', not to win God's favour but because of 'the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus'?
- Reflect again on the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5. 22-23, as aspects of God's character. Daily ask the Holy Spirit to grow them in your life.
- Pray for one another, to relax into the truth that God delights in us as his handiwork, his new creation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8KOVewy7zA>