

JOHN 14:15-27

28 MARCH 2021

ICE BREAKER: What is something others would say you are good at.

GROUP QUESTIONS:

What we **base our identity on** determines **everything we do** and the **motivations** for everything we do. The Gospels declare that we are to base our identity on our **relationship with God**, through faith and love in **Jesus Christ**.

However, we are often tempted to base our identity on our **work**—what we can produce. We may base our identity on our **appearance**—what we look like to others. We may base our identity on our **title**—what position we hold in society. Finally, we may base our identity on **people**—who we know.

1. When you want to **stand out or be noticed** above others, on what are you most tempted to **base your identity**, if not God?

(Read verses 15 & 23) Jesus Christ declared, **“If you love me, keep my commands.”** Furthermore Jesus said, **“Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching.”** Notice the order in Jesus’ statements. Jesus puts **love before obedience**.

God’s love for us and **our love for Him** provide the **basis of our identity**. **Obedience** to Jesus is the **evidence** we are Christian. Unfortunately, many Christians base their identity not on their love for Jesus, but on their obedience to Christian do’s and don’ts. Doing so produces a faith, but not a faith described by Jesus.

2. To follow Him, why do you think Jesus places **love before obedience**?

Sadly, we often base our Christian identity on what we do for God—how we serve others or how we obey His commandments. Doing so results in a **faith**, but **not a Biblical faith**. When we focus only on our obedience, we focus on what we have done for God. Often this type of faith leads to feeling God owes us.

However, when we focus on God’s love for us, demonstrated by sending His own Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins, we focus on what God has done for us.

3. How is your **attitude** affected when you **focus** not on **what you have done for God**, but on **what God has done for you**?

(Read verses 15-17 & 26) Jesus calls all who follow Him to love Him and obey Him. Unfortunately, we often try to accomplish this on **our own power**. The results are predictable—**disappointment** and **failure**.

Thankfully, Jesus does not expect us nor want us to love and obey Him out of our own power. Jesus promises to fill us with **the Holy Spirit**. It is the Holy Spirit, and not us, who will provide the **power** and the **inspiration** to love Him and obey Him.

4. Describe a **situation** or **area in your life** you must **depend on the Holy Spirit** and not yourself to love and obey Christ.

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to share Christ with this week.)
