



Who You Are

Featuring Chase Pami
2-Time NCAA All-American

“Who are you?”

That question can be simple or complicated depending on the context in which it is being asked. It might require nothing more than a basic response for the purpose of identification. But there’s a much deeper interpretation of the question that, if gone unanswered for too long, might cause us to struggle with the core of our very beings.

Chase Pami started asking that difficult question at a young age. He was in the fourth grade when a challenging church play led him to his first real experience with God. Pami accepted Christ, but didn’t completely surrender his heart until four years later.

But even as he grew closer to God, he still struggled as a young athlete to balance his sport with his faith.

“In wrestling, performance often fuels how you perceive yourself,” Pami says. “Your value gets tied up in wins and losses.”

As Pami has matured in his faith, he has come to understand that his athletic career doesn’t define his identity. There are still the emotional highs that come with winning and the emotional lows that come with losing. But now, Pami can rest in a truth that is much bigger than success or failure.

“I’m precious to God,” he says. “He sent His Son to die for me, and that’s what gives me value. My contentment is wrapped up within my identity in Christ and having an understanding of how much He loves me.”

The struggle of personal identity is not exclusive to athletes, although it is something that we in the competitive world do consistently fight against. When asked, “Who are you?” sometimes the first answer is often, “I’m a wrestler,” or “I’m a coach,” as if that somehow is the most important thing that defines our existence.

But over 2,000 years ago, the apostle Paul found that same internal issue to be a key part of most every human being’s battle against the flesh. He wrote about the importance of our identity on many occasions to the early Christians.

“My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20/NLT)

In another letter, Paul goes as far as saying that not only should we identify ourselves as His children, but that we, in fact, belong to Him.

“He has identified us as His own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts.” (2 Corinthians 1:22a/NLT)

Jesus also explained this divine concept during His ministry on Earth.

“But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God.” (John 1:12/NLT)

It’s okay to identify ourselves by our professions or our athletic pursuits, but ultimately, the most powerful statement we can make about who we are is when we identify ourselves by our relationship with Jesus Christ. It is that relationship that not only provides us a new identity, but also a new way of living and a new hope that we can rest upon in this life and the next.

Discussion Questions

1. In general, what are some ways you might respond if asked the question “Who are you?”
2. What do you think your answers say about what is most important in your life?
3. Do you find it easy or difficult to identify yourself as a Christian or a follower of Christ? Explain.
4. Go back and read Galatians 2:20, 2 Corinthians 1:22a, and John 1:12. What are some key elements found in those scriptures that might help us better understand the value of being called children of God?
5. Which parts of your identity do you need to reprioritize in order to fully embrace your identity in Christ?

Closing Prayer