



# GracePoint: A Weekly Sermon Discussion

## 04 – Who Do You Say That YOU Are?

### Announcements:

12/24 @11:00

*Lessons and  
Carols*

12/25 @10:00

*Communion  
Service*

### ICE BREAKER: What is your dream job?

For this year's Advent series, we have been looking at different answers to the question Jesus asked his disciples: "Who do you say that I am?". But for the final GracePoint of this series I would like to change the question just a little bit. When writing to the church in Corinth, Paul says: "If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation." (2 Corinthians 5:17) But what exactly does that mean, what is new about that new creation? How does this change us and what does that mean for our lives? So today I would like to spend our time asking: "Who do you say that YOU are?" In truth we will just be able to scratch the surface of the joy and blessedness of our new life in Christ, but even a quick look at this is worth our time!

### READ: 1 John 3:1-3

Here we start with what is in many ways the biggest way we could answer this question. I am a child of God. In fact, the way that John writes this is even more beautiful. It is not just that we are *called* children of God, but in fact he writes "and so we are." It is one thing to call yourself something, it is a different thing to be something and here we are as children of God. But then we can and should ask an important question: Why? It is because of the "great love lavished on us" (NIV translation... they got it really right here in my opinion). That great love changes us, sanctifies us, saves us! We are changing now and we will be finally changed. Ultimately the goal is that we as his children look like his (what we talked about Sunday!) only begotten son. What a great joy and treasure it is to be a child of God.

**REFLECTION:** What are some other benefits of being a child of God? (Hint: see Galatians 4:4-5 and Hebrews 12:6 to start)

### READ: Revelation 1:4-6.

There is a lot of who we are and what Christ has done for us here, but I would like to focus today on just one title, found in verse 6: Priests. As a Pastor, I am often confronted with people who call me a Priest. I have one of three pretty standard responses. One is to ignore it, often this is said out of habit by someone not too familiar with me or my position and it is not worth correcting. The second is to say something like "Well, I prefer Pastor, I'm not Catholic." I respond this way if I think they mean well, but I (or they) might not have the time/energy/desire for a debate or longer topic. But sometimes, when the time's just right I hit them with this theological truth: Not only am I a priest, but everyone who has been saved by Christ is too! We have been empowered by the work of Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that we are made priest to God the father almighty. We serve him, we are devoted to him, we are called to lead people to him, we serve the role, and have therefore rightfully the title of Priest!

**REFLECTION:** What does being a priest mean in your life? How or why does that change anything about you or your life?

### READ: Romans 1:7

This one might be my favorite: we are saints! It is helpful to remember what exactly this means. The word literally translated would be "Holy ones" (*hagiois* for those wondering). We are made holy by the work of our savior. Much like we noted in our conversation a few weeks ago on imputation it is truly who we are because we are given the holiness of Christ. It is our though our blessed union with him. So when you are asked: who do you say that you are? You can respond with boldness I am a holy one! It is not because you earned it (you didn't) or deserve it (you really don't) or even because you perfectly live like it (you aren't) but because It is given to us by grace through faith! This however should impact your life, knowing we are called to be saints give weight to Paul's exhortation in Ephesians to "live a life worthy of the calling you have received!"

**REFLECTION:** Why is it so important to know that we are saints?

In the end, just like our series could not be a complete discussion of who Jesus is, so too this is at best a 20,000 foot view of who we are in Christ, but I pray that as you think on these you would be encouraged! May the peace of Christ be with you!