

# SERMON NOTES

## When God Changes Your Name (Genesis 17) Seasons of Change sermon series By Pastor David Hillis, 09.10.17

**BIG IDEA: My identity prescribes my value and predicts my future, and is so important that it should be decided by my Creator and no one else.**

**Our Identity in Christ** (1 John 3:1; Mark 10:14-15; John 1:11-12; 1 John 2:29-3:1; 2 Corinthians 5:17)

- It is important to understand our identity, our purpose, though the eyes of our Creator. Throughout Scripture, our Creator wants us to understand our value, and identify ourselves primarily, as His children!
- Being a child of God doesn't just come from being human. It isn't a "given". It is a right that God gives us as humans, but it is a choice we must make to place our faith in Jesus.
- Today, God wants to give anyone a new identity, as His child. He wants us to see ourselves, identify ourselves, not based on the things we do or on our own thoughts or ideas, or anyone else's view of us, but instead by how He sees us.
- God, as our Creator, is the only one who has the right to determine our identity. If we make the choice to place our faith and trust in Jesus, and we want to identify ourselves as God's child, our Creator welcomes it and accepts us, just as we are.

**MY NEXT STEP: Consider how your life might change if you fully embraced the identity of being a child of God, above ALL else. How do you see your life changing? How might you take a step in that direction now?**

## QUESTIONS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD:

1. Reread Genesis 17, asking God to help you fully consider what it says and how it might relate in some way to your life. Consider a word, phrase or sentence that is especially meaningful to you or that God is calling you to pay attention to, and how God would have you apply that idea or concept to your life today.
2. Notice verses 16-19, as Abraham clings to the past for his answers rather than trusting God for the future. Are you someone who tends to cling more to the past or to the future? How? Why do you think it is important for your faith that you look forward more? How can you consider the past in life situations without clinging to it?
3. Read Isaiah 40:29-31 and 2 Peter 3:8-9. Why is it hard for you, and those closest to you, to wait on God sometimes? What are some of the ways you've second-guessed God as Abraham & Sarah did, and what happened? Where can you go or what can you decide to do to find the patience to wait on God?
4. Read the small book of 1 John, paying careful attention to what it says about being a child of God. How does it say we know we are God's children? How are we to live, behave as God's kids?
5. Read the following verses, taking a look at the context around them to fully understand what they are saying: Matthew 5:9, Luke 6:35, Romans 8:14-17, Ephesians 5:1, Philippians 2:15 and 1 John 3:10. What all do these verses say about what people look like who identify themselves as God's kids? In which of these ways do you tend to better reflect that you are God's kid?

## PRAYERS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD: University Students

Pray for our students from Grace, and beyond our walls, who are heading to institutions of higher education. May they follow Christ, hear truth proclaimed in settings that are often hostile or cynical toward matters of faith, and make wise decisions that help shape their careers and ambitions to fulfill God's global purposes.