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SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

BOTH+AND — SINNER + SAINT

Warm-Up Question:

If someone asked you, “Who are you? What’s your core identity?” How would you respond?

I. SINNER + SAINT: IDENTITY

- ▶ Read Rom. 5:6, 8, 10 & Eph. 2:1-3. What words does the Bible use to describe our identity outside of Christ? Is that difficult to accept? Why or why not?
- ▶ Read Rom. 5:9-10, Eph. 2:4-6, and 1 Cor. 6:11. What words does the Bible use to describe our identity in Christ, as a Christian?
- ▶ Read Heidelberg Catechism Q#60 in the sidebar and describe your identity in Christ. What part is most amazing or beautiful to you?
- ▶ Do you find it difficult to accept your identity outside of Christ or your identity now in Christ? Which is more difficult for you to believe & live out? Why?

II. SINNER + SAINT: REALITY

- ▶ Read 1 John 1:8, 1 Tim. 1:15, Psalm 51:3. Even though we’re “saints” in Christ, what’s the reality about sin still dwelling in us from these vs’s?
- ▶ How do you identify with this reality about sin still dwelling in you?
- ▶ How should this reality lead to some applications toward our spouse, children, and other Christians, etc? (For ideas, see Matt. 7:3-5; 18:15; Eph. 2:2-3)

III. SINNER + SAINT: WAR

- ▶ Read Gal. 5:16-17 & Rom. 7:15-17 and describe the war that goes on within every Christian.
- ▶ Share some ways you feel this war within you. Be as specific as possible.
- ▶ Why should this war within lead us to preach the gospel to ourselves every day?

**Take a moment and preach the good news of your primary identity:
You are now a SAINT!**

Q. How are you righteous before God?

A. Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God’s commandments, of never having kept any of them, and of still being inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without any merit of my own, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner, and as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is accept this gift with a believing heart.

For Prayer:

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SEVEN RIVERS
CHURCH

BOTH + AND — SAINT & SINNER

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Scriptures Used

Rom. 5:6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Rom. 5:8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Rom. 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Eph. 2:1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— **3** among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Rom. 5:9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. **10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Eph. 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

1Cor. 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1John 1:8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1Tim. 1:15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

Psa. 51:3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Matt. 7:3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? **4** Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? **5** You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Matt. 18:15 "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.

Phil. 2:2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, **3** eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Gal. 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. **17** For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

Rom. 7:15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. **16** Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. **17** So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.