



Exodus Study Questions

Week 9

Identity can be a hot-button issue in our day. People are identified according to things like ethnicity, gender, education, religion, finances, marital status, profession, dietary restrictions, or age. At times, "identification labels" can be forced onto others ("He's a *lazy bum!*") or worn like a badge ("She's a *distinguished professor.*"). This week, we see how the most essential aspects of our true identity have already been firmly established. It turns out that God has something to say about it all! Moreover, the labels assigned by God have profound implications for the course of our lives!

Main Text: Exodus 19:1-20:21

Connect

1. In just a few words, how would you identify yourself? Use any categories you would like (e.g., ethnicity, profession, etc.).
2. Do you think our understanding of our identity impacts how we live our lives?
3. What did you find most significant from this week's sermon?

Understand

1. Read chapter 19, verses 1-6. What are the different labels or words of identity that are listed in verses 5-6? Which (if any) do you find most significant?¹
2. Why do you think the LORD tells Moses to first tell the people in verse 4 that, "You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself"?
3. Read the rest of chapter 19. What descriptions, words, or instructions here explain how the people are to relate to God?²
4. Read chapter 20, verses 1-21. What do you think these verses have to do with being the LORD's "treasured possession among all peoples," "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (19:5-6)?

5. How would you describe the response of the people in verses 18-21? According to Moses, what purpose does the role of *fear* serve...even while he tells the people "Do not fear" in verse 20?

Apply

1. Read 1 Peter 2:9-10 and note who Peter addresses his letter to in the opening verses. How does this help us understand our identity and role as followers of Jesus?
2. What do you think it means for us to be "a royal priesthood" or "kingdom of priests" in our world?
3. 19:4 and 20:1-2 are claims to rightful ownership and introduce what the "Owner/Master" requires. As we stand on this other side of the cross, what else can we include about God's rightful claim to ownership of our lives because of Jesus?
4. How does the image of God described in these chapters compare with the image of God you see presented in our neighborhoods, communities, and culture?
5. Look back at 20:20. How would you distinguish between the two uses of the word "fear" in this single verse? What does it look like for us to have the right kind of fear "before [us], that [we] may not sin"?

Notes:

1. A priest is an intermediary between God and the people. In this sense, the priest "stood between" God and the people, instructing the people on what God required of them and representing the people to God through sacrifices and offerings made on their behalf.
2. "Consecrate" relates to the idea of setting something apart for a special, unique purpose rather than a common, ordinary purpose.