



# EMPOWERED LIVING LIKE JESUS DID

## **Empowered – Living Like Jesus Did Identity: Who Are We Called To Be?**

**Date:** Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March

**Speaker:** Cap and Jo Ramdas-Harsia

**Key Verses:** 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 1:4-6; Philippians 3:20; 1 Peter 2:9

### **Talk Summary:**

Our identity, first and foremost, is to be found in Christ. We are a new creation and the Bible has plenty to say about what that looks like. When we lack a clear identity in Christ, we look to other things for our significance, security and acceptance, such as, success, power, achievement, affirmation from others, sex, money... These worldly values can trap us and steal the freedom Christ has won for us.

We looked at three verses which speak into our identity.

- We are Children of God (Ephesians 1:4-6)
- We are Citizens of Heaven (Philippians 3:20)
- We are Royal Priests (1 Peter 2:9)

As children of God we have access to the same power, authority and heavenly resources that Jesus did. He chose to give us that when He died on the cross, restoring our relationship with our Father God to the relationship God intended when He created mankind.

As Citizens of Heaven, we are called to adopt Kingdom culture and live it out here on earth, bringing Heavenly values of love, mercy, grace, justice, peace into this world - giving those around us a taste of the goodness of Heaven, inviting them into the Kingdom.

As Royal Priests, we are all called to serve God and mankind with a priestly ministry. We all have the power and authority to pray for others (everyone gets to play), drawing people to Jesus and releasing Heaven's culture and resources over them.

To live out this identity we need to:

- Hang out with Jesus as much as possible
- Read and remember scriptures about our identity
- Step out in faith and perseverance

### **Worship**

*Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.*

*(Small group worship resources can be found at [bvc.so/sgworship](http://bvc.so/sgworship))*

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

*If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:*

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? *(Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it)*

### **Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)**

- In what ways do you find significance, security and acceptance from the things of the world? What lies have we believed about this and what truth about God counters these?
- How has knowing that you are a child of God, adopted into His family, affected how you see yourself?
- What does our citizenship of Heaven make available to us?
- In what ways have you seen the 'culture of Heaven' brought into the lives of people you know?
- In what practical ways can we be 'priests' to those around us, both within and outside of the church?
- What are your top practical tips on ensuring our identities in Christ become established in our hearts and actions?
- What do you think are the main sticking points that prevent us living out our identity in Christ? What can we do about that?

**Witness** - *How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?*

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?
  - Upcoming Events (go to [bvc.so/whats-on](http://bvc.so/whats-on) for details)
    - Iranian New Year Celebration – 26<sup>th</sup> March