

Post Christian Jesus – Week 1
Looking for Identity – Ben Foote
July 4, 2021

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation--encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Bible References

John 16:33, Matthew 23:27-28, John 14:6, 1 Corinthians 6:11, John 1:12-13, Ephesians 2:8-9, Matthew 11:28, Ephesians 5:14

// Message Summary

This week Ben kicks off the first week of the series "Post Christian Jesus." Ben summarizes what this series will encompass which is four things that all humans need and desire: identity, peace, justice, and joy. He talks about the importance of identity and how our identity today is often shaped by social media, lack of face-to-face conversations, and many other temporary, fleeting things. This leads to loneliness and isolation. He goes on to encourage us to seek our identity in Jesus, and Jesus alone. Our true Father. God has erased our old identity and given us a new identity. We do not have to earn this new identity because Jesus took care of that for us on the cross. God can handle our real selves; He created us. Ben encourages us to be real with God and start to form that realness in our lives in our relationships with others.

FLATIRONS COMMUNITY CHURCH

// Community Questions

1. What social media platform do you use/like the most? Why? (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, Snap Chat, etc.)
2. Where have you seen examples of "post-Christian" society? (Examples: increase in people claiming to not have a religion/faith, taking God & prayer out of schools, etc.)

// Discussion Questions

1. Do you feel a certain pressure to portray your life a certain way on social media? Or do you feel pressure to engage with other people's social media to maintain those "friendships?"
2. In a time where we can be connected to millions of people with the click of a button, and we can have thousands of "friends," would you say that isolation and loneliness are more prevalent than ever before? Have you personally experienced that?
3. Where do you find yourself searching for identity, love, & acceptance outside of Jesus? Social media, work performance, approval from parents, your kids, attention from the opposite sex, academic/athletic performance
4. Why is it so hard for us to show the real, imperfect, messy parts of ourselves to people? What is at risk if we do that?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 as a group. Most of us can identify with **at least** one of the names on that list. What does it mean for you to know that because of Jesus and what He did for us, you don't have to live by that identity but to get live as a son/daughter of God (1 John 1:12-13)?
6. Read Matthew 11:28. What would change in your life if you truly laid down your burdens (loneliness, isolation, fear, stress) and allowed Jesus to give you rest and a new identity?

// Challenge

Taken directly from Ben's message: This week read John 1:12-13 every morning. Then pray for 10 minutes and be real with God. Then, take it further and meet with a trusted friend face-to-face, and be real with them.