



PURPOSE-BASED IDENTITY > PERFORMANCE-BASED IDENTITY

with Luke Parker

▶ FOCUS VERSE

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
Galatians 2:20

▶ DISCUSSION

1. **As a young person, Luke says, his relationship with God was “real,” but “not deep.”**
 - a. Has there been a period in your life where your own relationship with God matched that description?
 - b. Are you in such a season now?
 - c. What’s the biggest thing you feel like you’re missing?
 - d. Does your spiritual life feel like, in Luke’s words, “rules without a relationship”?

2. **Luke says he and many of his fellow college athletes were caught up in a “performance-based identity” rather than an identity built around their God-given purpose. Do you sometimes feel like your identity is defined too much by what you can do for other people, or by efforts to impress other people that don’t represent who you really are inside?**

3. **What are some common misconceptions or false assumptions people have about you?**



- a. Do you ever find yourself “performing” for those people to live up to their expectations or assumptions?
- b. Does this performing ever take a mental or spiritual toll on you?

4. Talk about the connection Luke made between insecurity and sin.

- a. Have there been times in your life when you were too worried about what other people wanted from you, and not what God wanted?
- b. Did that cause you to do anything you knew deep down wasn't right, just to fit in or be accepted?

5. Over the course of a typical day, how often do you think about the security of God's love and the reassurance it offers? (See Romans 8:31-39.)

- a. What are some things you can do to be more mindful of that?

6. When searching for new friends, what traits or qualities do you seek?

- a. Are you focused mainly on people who share your opinions and interests, or do you seek out people from whom you could learn something?

7. Along those same lines, what's the biggest or most troubling thing you've ever revealed about yourself to someone else? (See 1 John 1:7.)

- a. Did you feel you were alone with that secret or shame—that no one else would understand or forgive you?
- b. Why did you eventually choose that person (or people) to confide in?
- c. What were the results of that revelation—did you feel less burdened or stressed out afterward?
- d. Did your relationship with the person/people you'd talked to grow stronger in any way?

