



SERMON DISCUSSION PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

Live Life Backward | Dave Cover | September 27, 2026

Workbook Review

- What perspective did you gain by looking at your life backward from week 1?
- What is something you learned about your why this week?
- What is something you would like to live out going forward?

Opening Question: What is a nickname you've been called at some point in your life, and how did you get it?

Sermon Discussion

1. Dave shared that 91% of U.S. adults agree that "the best way to find yourself is by looking within yourself," and so do 76% of practicing Christians. What does it mean to look within oneself to find out who we are? Why hasn't it delivered, given that almost half of young adults say they lack meaning or purpose?

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2. Paul never once uses the word "Christian." His favorite way to describe followers of Jesus is "in Christ," which he uses about 165 times. **What's the difference between thinking of yourself as "a Christian" and thinking of yourself as someone who is "in Christ"?**

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

3. Put this verse in your own words. What is being exchanged here? Why does it matter so much that our standing before God rests on Jesus's righteousness rather than our own?

Revelation 2:17 (ESV)

"...I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it."

4. Dave told the story of his grandson George looking at him and saying, "Hi Dave," as if he'd unlocked the secret to his identity. Jesus promises each of us a new name that no one else knows. **What else tries to name us, and what does it mean that no one but Jesus gets to give us our true name?**
5. Dave anticipated the question, "If that's who I am, why don't I feel like it? Why do I still act like the old me?" **How does the idea of living in the *Already/Not Yet* help you make sense of that?**

Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV)

22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

6. Dave compared this to a little boy wearing his father's dress shirt. He's still growing into it until it fits. **Practically speaking, what does it look like to "put off" the old self and "put on" the new one?**
7. Dave told the story of William Woods, whose identity was stolen by an imposter for 35 years, while the real William was jailed and called crazy. There's an imposter, your old self, living in us too. **Where is your old self taking over your life, and what would it sound like to answer it with who God says we are?**

Sharing and Prayer

Have someone read aloud the list Dave closed with:

When you decided to follow Jesus, you were born again as a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17). You became a "child of light" (Eph. 5:8). Jesus has a special name just for you (Rev. 2:17). You are now a "co-heir with Christ" and will share his inheritance (Rom. 8:17). You are now "a temple in which God dwells by his Holy Spirit who is in you" (1 Cor. 6:19). You are now a citizen of heaven (Phil. 3:20) who is somehow right now seated in heaven with Christ (Eph. 2:6). You are now "chosen of God, holy and dearly loved" (Col. 3:12; 1 Thes. 1:4). And you are someone who will reign on this earth when Christ returns (Rev. 5:10).

- Split into groups of two or three.
- Have each person share which of these truths is hardest for them to believe right now, and why.
- Pray for one another by name, praying that truth back over each other. For example: "Lord, thank you that _____ is chosen, holy, and dearly loved. Help her believe it this week when the old self tells her otherwise."
- Bring everyone back together, and the leader closes by praying that each person would hear God tell them who they are this week and believe him.

What to do for next time...

- Read and answer the daily workbook pages for week 3 on *Live Out Your True Identity*
- If meeting in two weeks, also do the workbook pages for week 4 on *Live By A Code*.