



FELLOWSHIP OF
CHRISTIAN ATHLETES
BASEBALL

Christ-Like Identity

“For we are co-workers in God’s service, you are God’s field, God’s building.” – 1 Corinthians 3:9

How do you identify yourself? Is it where you were born? Where you live? The school you attend? By your favorite baseball team? Your favorite sport? Your family name?

We identify ourselves with many things. They all to a certain extent guide us and provide direction.

However, it is clear when we read God’s Word that our identity is and should be in Christ Jesus. Here are a few examples:

- **Philippians 3:20** – “But our citizenship is in heaven...”
- **Genesis 1:27** – “So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female He created them.”
- **1 John 4:9** – This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him.”

These verses tell us that we are:

- Citizens of Heaven
- Created in God’s image
- Loved by God

Too many times we live our life through the identity of the things we do and want to accomplish, when instead we should be living our life in the full knowledge that we are part of God’s precious family.

Listen to the words of Felix van der Vaart, a former player with the FCA Herndon Braves; *“Instead of fighting to keep my faith while playing baseball, FCA Baseball provided me the avenue to connect with people who shared my faith and my sport. It gave me the opportunity to develop my skills on the field while growing in my faith, which helped me learn to discover that my greatest joy was not in being identified as a baseball player but in being a Christian. Learning to compete while keeping God at the center is invaluable and while my baseball days are done, my identity remains the same.”*

Did you catch what he said? His greatest joy came by learning and identifying with Christ. Here is how Mike Matheny, Manager of the St. Louis Cardinals says it; *“We are all missionaries, I believe in the saying, ‘Preach the gospel at all times, and when necessary use words.’ If I’m doing that, opportunities to share will come to give a reason for the hope I have. I look forward to those conversations.”*

While many of our identities are misplaced or confused at one stage or another of our life, we should be encouraged by those who have gone before us and with us, like Felix and Mike Matheny, and follow the One who is the same yesterday, today and forever – Christ Jesus.

Challenge: Pay attention to those times when you fail to acknowledge your identity in Christ and remember that you have been chosen to be an Ambassador for Christ!

Reading This Week: 1 Corinthians 3:9. Philippians 3:30. Genesis 1:27. 1 John 4:9. 2 Corinthians 5:20.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for choosing me to be a “co-worker” in your service. Grant me the courage to live as your ambassador, through my thoughts, actions, and words.

-- Todd Burger, Director, NoVA/DC FCA Baseball