



# NOW WHAT

14 FEBRUARY - 14 MARCH

An aerial photograph of a large crowd of people on a sandy beach. The crowd is spread out across the upper and middle portions of the frame. In the lower center, a group of people has formed a large, dark question mark shape on the sand. The background shows the ocean and a clear sky.

# OUR IDENTITY

**NOW WHAT ? SERIES**

**“It’s like everyone tells a story about themselves inside their own head. All the time. That story makes you what you are. We build ourselves out of that story.”**

**Patrick Rothfuss**  
– The Name of the Wind

## Exodus 19:3-8 (NLT)

<sup>3</sup> Then Moses climbed the mountain to appear before God. The Lord called to him from the mountain and said, “Give these instructions to the family of Jacob; announce it to the descendants of Israel: <sup>4</sup> ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup> **Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. <sup>6</sup> And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.**’ This is the message you must give to the people of Israel.”

## Exodus 19:3-8 (NLT)

<sup>7</sup> So Moses returned from the mountain and called together the elders of the people and told them everything the Lord had commanded him. <sup>8</sup> **And all the people responded together, “We will do everything the Lord has commanded.”** So, Moses brought the people’s answer back to the Lord.

Christian selfhood is not defined in terms of who we are in and of ourselves. It's defined in terms of what God does to us and the relationship he creates with us and the destiny he appoints for us. In other words, **as a Christian you cannot talk about your identity without talking about the action of God on you, the relationship of God with you, and the purpose of God for you.**

**John Piper**

# Two views of identity

I am because I do

I am because God did

## 1 Peter 2:9-12<sub>(NLT)</sub>

<sup>9</sup> But you are not like that, for **you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession.** As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

<sup>10</sup> **"Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy."**



## 1 Peter 2:9-12<sub>(NLT)</sub>

<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. <sup>12</sup> **Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbours.** Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honourable behaviour, and they will give honour to God when he judges the world.

**Every relationship has boundaries and behaviours connected to it.**

**With the privilege of being called into a relationship with God comes the duty of living in that relationship.**

**God's primary calling in our lives  
is a call to be a disciple.**

**His primary calling is one of faithfulness  
to our relationship with a Holy God.**