

1 **When you were in high school, what fashions in clothing or hairstyles were all the rage?** Did you sport any of those memorable looks? Sometimes a journey down memory lane with yearbook photos can only be explained by saying, "Listen, everyone was wearing that." As an adult, are there times when you feel pressured by peers to be like everyone else? In what ways? What was that like?

 *What do you think it means to be a holy people belonging to the Lord in Deut 14:2?*

 *How should that influence the choices we make about culture and lifestyle?*

 *What practical examples of Christian living make God's people distinct from the world? Which do you most naturally think of and why? What are perhaps some lesser considered, but still important examples?*

2 **Under the Old Covenant, God called his people to be holy and distinctive in a variety of ways – to include funerals, food, and finances.** In what ways does God call his people today to be holy and distinctive?

 *How can we honor God in this without falling into the ditch of legalism?*

 *How do the choices you make and your commitment to live by God's standards impact your relationships? Both with God and with your family, friends, and coworkers?*

3 **Why did God command the Israelites to set aside a tenth of all their produce (Deut 14:23)?**

 *According to (Deut. 14:27-29) what were some of the things they were supposed to do with this tithe?*

 How does biblical stewardship reflect the heart of God? What is the connection between our willingness to give and our faith that God will provide?

**4 How does our identity as God's chosen people and his treasured possession help us live distinctively in the world?**

 Discuss some of the dangers of trying to establish identity in the wrong places. What are the dangers associated with someone who is more concerned about their:

social identity (what they project so that others will think a certain way about them)

their ideal identity (who they wish they were if things could change for the positive in their life),

their "objective" identity (what they know is true about their flaws and failures)

instead of focusing on their divine identity (what God says about his children)?

 Which of those four aspects of identity do you tend to focus on? How does that affect you?

 How could a renewed faith and settled rest in God's opinion change things for you?

**5 As you live out your faith, what do others notice as being different about you?** What more should they notice? In what areas of life are you struggling with God's call to holy living? What course corrections do you need prayer for? How should the gospel motivate us to godly living?

**Prayer Points**

- > Pray that God would show you how to live distinctively in this world.
- > Ask him to help you trust his rules and regulations knowing that they stem from a loving relationship.
- > Confess any area of life that is not holy and set apart to God.
- > Draw near to the Lord and delight in his plan.
- > Ask God to give you a soft heart and open hands when it comes to giving.
- > Thank the Lord for making you his child and treasured possession.