

Poured Out Chapel

Topic: Named by God

Speaker: Dr. Wilfred Graves Jr.

What this message was about

Many people feel pressured to define themselves by grades, success, approval, or whatever they feel in the moment. God offers something better: he tells you who you are.

1) Identity starts with creation

- God created human beings in his image (Gen. 1:26–27).
- That means your life has value because God made you.
- God made people male and female, and both are equally made in his image.

2) Sin and pressure distort identity

Sin doesn't remove God's image, but it can distort how you see yourself and how you live.

Two common traps:

- **Fatalism:** "This is just how I am. I won't change."
- **Condemnation:** "God is done with me. I've failed too much."

Condemnation pushes you away from God. Conviction calls you back to God.

3) Identity is restored in Christ

- Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead.
- In Christ, you receive a new identity (2 Cor. 5:17).
- The Christian life is not just about trying harder. It is a new life from God.

4) The Holy Spirit makes this real

- The Holy Spirit applies what Jesus has done to you personally.
- The Spirit gives assurance that you belong to God (Rom. 8:15–16).
- If you feel fear or insecurity with God, this is exactly what the Spirit helps with.

Key truths:

- You belong to God before you perform.
- You can come back to God.
- You are God's child, not a slave to fear.

5) What this means for everyday life

- Obedience is a response to God's love, not a way to earn it (Eph. 4:1).
- God doesn't intend for you to follow Jesus alone. You need Christian community.

What to do next

If you've been dealing with fear, shame, confusion, or a negative pattern you keep returning to—don't just file these notes away. Do one of these in the next 24–48 hours:

- Ask God honestly for help and assurance.
- Talk to one mature Christian you trust and ask them to pray with you.
- If you need more support, reach out to a pastor or a trusted leader.