



Labels People Place on Us

Romans 12:2-3

About *Opportunity: Today's Decisions Tomorrow's Realities*

Time moves faster and faster the older we become. In fact, life is far too short to make foolish decisions. One bad decision can take years to overcome. If you're not sure how to get where you want to go, ask someone who's been there. If you heed the advice, chances are you'll be glad you did! Learn how to make the most of every opportunity in this four-part series – *Opportunity: Today's Decisions Tomorrow's Realities*.

Bottom Line

Labels are powerful things. **The labels people put on you could cause you to miss the plan God has for you.**

Introduction

Label makers are interesting gadgets. You find something, determine what it is, then label it.

Who has the right to label something?

- Manufacturer
- Owner
- Purchaser

The next question is one of the most important questions you will wrestle with in your life.

Who has the right to label you?

Struggle

We all end up with labels.

Labels affect the way we carry ourselves, behave, and react.

Labels can become a prison. Labels can keep you from opportunities, and labels can keep you from certain people. Labels can lock you in, and labels can lock others out.

Labels are powerful things.

Labels can determine the direction and quality of your life.

You've got labels.

Some people gave you labels, and some labels you gave yourself. Some labels are good and some labels are bad. Friends, parents, coaches, cousins all labeled you.

The problem is we often don't shed our labels. We stay stuck to them. Without meaning to, we give others control of our lives.

Truth

That brings us back to the question. **Who has the right to label you?**

Only the one who made you, owns you, and purchased you.

God created you, owns you, and His son purchased you with his death.

Romans 12:2, "Do not **conform** any longer to the **pattern** of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is. His **good, pleasing, and perfect** will."

The labels people **put** on you could cause you to miss the **plan** God has for you.

How do you shed these labels? By renewing your mind in Christ Jesus.

Conclusion

Some of you have been mislabeled. Some of you have mislabeled yourselves. It's time to tear them off, throw them away, and ask your Manufacturer how He sees you.

Every week in church, that's what we hope to do. We hope to help you see as God sees, so you will do as God says.

This week in your Community Groups, ask and discuss these three questions:

1. What are your labels?
2. Where did they come from?
3. How do I shed them by renewing my mind in Christ Jesus?

Who has the right to label you? Who have you allowed to label you? It's time to peel them off and align yourself with the way your Creator, Savior, and Redeemer sees you.

Next Steps

- Memorize Romans 12:2-3
- Answer these three questions with your Community Group.
- Join us next weekend for *Opportunity, Part Two: Today's Decisions Tomorrow's Realities*.