

I. Identity Truth

- A. The question of identity is possibly the most powerful and needful question that a person can endeavor to answer. The reason for this is that the question of who we are informs and empowers the drive and meaning of life.
- B. Recently, a study was conducted by twenty-three independent and reputable research organizations to measure the influence of the theme of the establishment of identity through social media. Twenty-two of the twenty-three organizations presented findings of identity being positively related with behavior. The researchers predominantly suggested a measured effect of identity was intention formation, which, in turn, was assumed to be the predictor for behavior. Mature, stable, and strong identity was particularly related to positive behavioral intention and behavior.
 1. The study convincingly showed that you could manipulate behavior and intentional life decisions through influencing someone of their identity through various markers (race, politics, standards, education, etc.). The German Chancellor, Adolph Hitler, understood this and used the power of identity to convince thousands of German citizens that they were a higher form of humanity than those around them. He then used that identity theme to incite worldwide war and genocide which resulted in the deaths of well over 70 million people. Approximately 25% of these deaths were due to crimes against humanity carried out by the Nazi regime, fueled by false identity as the superior race.
 1. Since the introduction of social media (early 2000's) the issue of searching for, establishing, and/or acceptance of one's identity has resulted in a massive surge of depression and anxiety (up almost 50% in adolescents and up 30% in young adults).
 2. Colorado House Bill 25-1312 addresses the use of chosen names and pronouns in places of public accommodation for those who identify as transgender. The initial version of the bill would have considered misgendering and deadnaming (name given at birth) as forms of coercive control in child custody cases. These were removed before the bill was signed into law. The final version of the bill includes discrimination laws based on gender identity, meaning that using a transgender person's former name (deadnaming) or incorrect pronouns can be considered a discriminatory act.

- C. There can be no doubt that this series we are about to embark upon as a church family is very significant in both power and gravity to affect your life. We ask that you would pray for our messaging team as we go through this series and pray for your heart and mind to be filled with the truth of your identity in God.

II. Identity Source

- A. We currently live in a culture marked and driven by unprecedented identity crisis. Not only has the issue of insecure or false identity resulted in an alarming rise of mental health issues in our young adults, the theme of identity has become for many the center of their worship and devotion. In other words, rather than finding their identity in God, their identity has become their God.
 1. Identity Markers - In our society today, individuals seek to find their identity through various characteristics which helps them define who they are either to themselves or others. The most common markers include race, religion, social status, gender, physical appearance or fitness, nationality, financial status, and marketplace accomplishments.
- B. Identity found in God - The primary reason why humanities search for identity has led to so much pain and disaster is because we were never meant to find our identity and purpose in various social markers. Our identity and corresponding purpose was never intended by our creator to be discovered through confusion and the pain of us being both the investigator and the suspect of the investigation. Instead, we were created to have our identity and corresponding purpose be spoken over us by our creator.

Identity in God Defined - How God sees us through the lens of His created intention and the redemptive work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. Your identity is not who you say you are. It is who God says you are, which ultimately reveals your purpose and meaning.

1. This identity takes precedence over all other aspects or markers of a person's life and self-definition. It is the Creator's authoritative answer to a believer's fundamental question of self-identity. The identity given to us by our Creator is the only true authentic self-identity. (Gen. 1:26-28; Job 10:10-12; Duet 32:6; Ps. 100:3, 138:8, 139:13-18; Eph. 2:10; Phl 2:13)

III. Identity Response

- A. You can find literally thousands of books, and thousands more of message series, and even entire Christian ministries focused on our identity in God. This is not a new message or truth when it comes to Christianity. That being said, we believe that Christianity has made some errors when it comes to our response to our identity in God. As a messaging team, it will be our aim to guide you through a healthy, mature, and life-giving understanding of your identity in God. The following aspects are the fruit of understanding who you are in God.
1. Produces Humility and Worship - The knowledge of our identity in God, when understood rightly, will result in us feeling humbled and in awe of His kindness, mercy, and love. Knowing our identity in God will ultimately cause us to boast in Him and not in ourselves. (1 Jhn. 3:1; Rom. 11:17-36; 1 Cor. 15:9-10)
 2. Draws us into Deeper Relationship - One of the fruits of understanding how God sees us and who we are in Him is that we will be drawn closer to Him and propelled into deeper love and freedom of relationship. (Jhn 1:12-14; Rom 8:14-17; 1 Pet. 2:9)
 3. Balance between Being and Doing - Identity is not just about who you are or how God sees you. Knowing who you are cannot be separated from your purpose or what you do. An individual who is established in their identity in God has a mature balance between doing the works of the kingdom and resting in God. (Eph. 2:4-10)
 4. Produces Courage and Perseverance - Knowing who you are and what your purpose is gives you great courage to move forward with the vision that God has given you. When the going gets tough, knowing our identity in God gives us perseverance in the face of adversity. (Rom. 8:29-39)
 5. Equips us for Battle - It is important that you understand that your identity in God will oftentimes be at odds with what your unrenewed mind believes about yourself. It will also be at odds with many of the markers through which the culture around you finds their identity in. You will find yourself in an ongoing battle of beliefs and values with your flesh and the Holy Spirit in you. You will find yourself battling for the identity of the people you love and the culture around you.

You will also battle powers and principalities of the evil one who desire nothing more than to totally rob you of your identity in God and destroy you with lies. However, take heart because the battle is meant to make you stronger and through the power and truth of God, you can ultimately overcome all these battles, but you must be prepared to fight. (Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 10:4-6; Eph. 6:10-16)

6. Empowers Righteousness - Knowing who you are in God has immediate and direct effect on you overcoming sin in your life. An individual who is established in their identity knows the truth and the truth will set them free. (Rom 6:11-14; Eph 5:8-11)