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Our True Identity Pt. 2
1/7/23
Various Scriptures

Discussion Questions:

1. What is problematic about assembling broken pieces of something as important as your identity? Where can we get help?
 2. What natural gifts have you discovered in yourself or others?
 3. What spiritual gifts have you discovered? How did that happen?
 4. How might we enhance a natural gift into a spiritual gift?
 5. What does this study make you consider or ponder?
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Teaching Notes:

Last week, we looked at our word for the new year: Identity.

Identity is a compilation we make of experiences, memories, relationships, and values.

Identity answers, who am I? Why am I here? Do I matter?

Big idea: When we know who we are, we know how to live well.

But we have a problem:

- ...we are all born with a fallen, broken, sinful identity.
- ...So we are assembling an identity with broken pieces...
- ...that we don't fully understand or have the skills to do.

So when we put our faith in the savior who is Jesus Christ...

- ...we are born again, we are forgiven, we have a new identity.
- ...That identity is being part of a new family.

1. Our identity influences our activity.

What else does God say about us?

We are His children, we are a new creation, we are forgiven.

John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

John 8:42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me....Being His child...we should love His Son.

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Ephesians 4:22 NIV

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Ephesians 4:32

...forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

There is the identity God gives & the activity it produces.

...But there is another element to our identity in Christ...
...the gifts and calling of God.

2. Our identity includes our gifts and calling.

The gifts and calling of God are from God for His purpose.

Spiritual Gifts:

Romans 12 talks about prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership, and mercy.

1 Corinthians 12 talks about word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues. Also there are apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, gifts of healings, helps, governments, and diversities of tongues.

Couple quick points about gifts:

First point: we believe these gifts are still in use.

Second: I don't think this is exhaustive.

Third: You may or may not love using your gift.

What about the idea of a calling?

A calling is not a job, it is a purpose of God for you to fulfill. It starts with His call to follow Him and then it proceeds to His call to partner with Him in His purpose for you.

God gives gifts and callings to His people for the building up of the body and the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 14:12

So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church.

So...How do you find your spiritual gifts or calling?

1. **Look to the Lord.**
2. **Look for opportunities.**
3. **Look for needs you see.**
4. **Look for what blesses His body.**

5. **Look for what brings God glory.**
6. **Look to develop your ability.**

People sometimes hold onto man-made identities because they think it gives them value or security.

3. Our identity in Christ is our value and security.

It's a worldly mindset, a demonic lie, and a fleshy goal to think...
...I am personally secure or valuable because of what I do.

You are valuable & secure because of who God says you are!
God says you are precious, loved, and worth giving His Son for.

His gifts and calling are given for His purpose...
...not because we deserve them or we don't.

A person with a strong sense of identity is consistent.

We see this in Daniel and Joseph.

1. They are **independent** and able to make confident decisions.
2. They have **boundaries** and limits and are less likely to become people pleasers or manipulated by others.
3. They have **flexibility** to handle adversity and uncertainty.
4. There is an **emotional intelligence** to understand how & what triggers certain emotions and respond appropriately.
5. They build **community** and develop strong relationships

Conversely...

An unhealthy sense of identity is inconsistent like Saul or even David.

1. They change with their environment.
2. They are molded by relationships.
3. They have radical shifts in their opinions.
4. Their relationships don't run deep.
5. They don't trust themselves.