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Message Title: Our True Identity  
Various Scriptures  
12/31/23

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What do you think of when you think of the word identity? Why?
2. Have you ever struggled with knowing who you are or your purpose? Can you share a little about that?
3. Why do most people trust themselves instead of God regarding their identity or purpose?
4. Which of the first 3 points about identity do you connect with and why? (Trust the One who made you, Trust what God says about you, Trust God's process.)
5. What did you learn or were you reminded to do after this study?

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### **Have you ever struggled with the question of who you are?**

Identity is an important topic & especially relevant today.

### **A lot of people are both confused and curious about identity.**

AND...the better able we can answer these questions...

...the better life we can have and...

...the better relationships we can enjoy.

**It is said, a stable identity is a cornerstone of mental health, of healthy relationships, and of personal development.**

What is **Identity**?

It is a combination of our memories, experiences, relationships, and values.

**Identity** is influenced by both internal and external forces.

...It is both nurture and nature.

**But here is an important big idea:**

**We build with what we have and...**

...we discover what is underneath...

...but we also make choices on what we use to build...

...and we decide where we will dig deeper.

**Much of our identity is both our responsibility & opportunity.**

**The most important decision you can make regarding your identity is your relationship with God.**

**I am not talking about religious beliefs...**

...how you were raised or what you were taught...

...these do have an effect...

**...but what I am talking about is a real relationship with God.**

Preteen to young adult is when much of our identity is formed

**We try out different identities looking for one we think fits.**

**...We all want to know who we are and where we belong.**

3 human problems with Identity

1. We don't know what we're doing.
2. What we make doesn't last.
3. We don't have the skills to get it done.

**Our identity is like a car...**

**...it is a vehicle to get in and get somewhere.**

**The first problem is...we don't know what we are doing...**

Would you take your car to a mechanic that said...

"I have no idea what this is supposed to look like because I have never seen anything like this, but I am sure I can figure it out, and by the way, I charge by the hour!"

Or would you rather take your car to a mechanic that says, I helped design this car from the ground up. I know everything there is to know about this car.

**To build and discover your true identity...**

**1. Trust the One who made you.**

**We are all made in the image of God...**

**...and we must know God to truly know ourselves.**

Jeremiah 1:5

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

**The second problem related to identity is...**

**...what we make doesn't last.**

We take the identity of a parent and then the kids move out.

We take the identity of a business man and we retire.

We take the identity of an athlete and can't play anymore.

**Our identity based on our relationship with God is true and eternal:**

**...true and eternal because that's who God is.**

Ecc. 3:11

Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.

Psalm 119:89

Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

**To build and discover your true identity...**

**2. Trust who God says you are.**

The 3rd problem related to identity is

**We don't have the skills to get it right.**

**...We are imperfect builders and inferior discoverers.**

**But God...God is the perfect builder. He always gets it right.**

**To build and discover your true identity...**

**3. Trust God's process.**

Psalm 18:30

This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

Isaiah 55:8-9

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**As we close, remember, there are choices we must make...**

Joshua said to the people, "Choose this day whom you will serve, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

**We all have choices to make and sometimes...**

**...we find we are not living out our identity in Christ.**

I think there are 3 reasons for this...

**First, we don't live out our identity in Christ because...**

**... it was actually man-made not God made.**

**4. We must make sure our identity is in Christ.**

**Especially w/young people or someone trained religiously.**

They were taught or given an identity of religious beliefs...

**BUT** when their world shifted or didn't make sense w/ that identity:

...they do what people always do...

...they try a new identity.

**Second, we don't live out our identity in Christ because...**

**...we have forgotten who we are.**

**5. We must remember who we really are.**

**The 3rd reason we don't live out our identity in Christ is...  
... we never learned about it in the first place.**

**6. We must learn what God says about us.**