

Lesson 1: An Identity Crisis

Introduction:

- In today's culture and society there is an identity crisis.
 - What do I mean?
 - I do not mean that crisis growing up in high school and college of deciding what you want to do when you grow up? (what you want to be?)
 - I do not mean the contemplation of what kind of clothes you want to wear, what kind of music you will listen to, what political party you will associate with and vote for?
 - All these things are often what is thought of when we think of "identity", but are not what I am speaking of?
 - Today, things have gotten worse under the name "progressive"
 - Many talk about "identity politics"
 - We vote based upon categorizing people.
 - We also have, what many talk about concerning identity issues, like sexual orientation and gender dysphoria.
 - None of these things are what I mean and more importantly what God the Creator means when we discuss identity.
 - What I do not mean?
 - I do not mean that crisis growing up in high school and college of deciding what you want to do when you grow up? (what you want to be?)
 - I do not mean the contemplation of what kind of clothes you want to wear, what kind of music you will listen to, what political party you will associate with and vote for?
 - All these things are often what is thought of when we think of "identity", but are not what I am speaking of?
 - Today, things have gotten worse under the name "progressive"
 - Many talk about "identity politics"
 - We vote based upon categorizing people.
 - We also have, what many talk about concerning identity issues, like sexual orientation and gender dysphoria.
 - None of these things are what I mean and more importantly what God the Creator means when we discuss identity.
- In our current culture and society we discuss identity as that which is fluid; however, identity isn't fluid and isn't changeable by decisions or feelings, operations or hair color, or comprised by groups we associate with. Identity is that which cannot be changed.
 - For time sake, if we were to boil-down the closest thing that makes you-you, in an earthly sense, it would be your DNA. Your DNA is constructed when you are fearfully and wonderfully made in your mother's womb. Gender and sex, eye color, hair color, how many toes and fingers you will have, shape of nose, etc. These things are composed based upon your DNA and are what is natural - although you can manipulate them later on in life, you possess that which is natural.
 - No matter if you know your birth mother or not, there is a miracle that takes place that is you, in your mother's womb.
 - A miracle of being made in the image of God. An image of God through what you inherit from your mother and father.
 - Something you can never change - you! However, this isn't all we are supposed to know about ourselves, as far as, our identity.
 - With the obvious so-called identity problems that exist today it is apparent that there is a pandemic, a global pandemic, an identity crisis in which the world is facing.

- There is much more that God reveals and unmask about our identity that is vitally important and essential for us to know - in view of what God diagnoses the problem to be, what He declares essential, we need to follow His recommendations.

Preview:

- In this series of studies we will examine what God reveals about your identity and the identity problem that each and every person has.
- In this lesson -
 - Origin of Identity
 - Addition by Subtraction

Sermon:

Origin of Identity

- **Genesis 1:26-27**
 - Image of God
 - Think, live, and labor with God
 - Commune with God
 - Not an animal
 - No animal described to be made in the image of God
- **Genesis 1:28**
 - Multiply by means of copulation (ca-pew-lay-shun), conception/pregnancy, and birth
 - **Ps. 139:13-14** (conception/pregnancy)
 - "fearfully and wonderfully made"
 - Leviticus 12:2-8 - unclean
 - Isa. 26:17 - pain

Addition by Subtraction

- **Genesis 3:1-3, 4-6**
 - **Genesis 2:16-17** - the commandment
 - **1 Timothy 2:11-15** - the transgression
 - **Genesis 3:16** - greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children
 - Because of sin
- **Romans 5:12** - sin entered, all have sinned
 - Image of God, after His likeness (godly)
 - Image of God, after own likeness (ungodly)
 - Inherit features of height, looks, hair like your parents (some you can change, some you cannot)

- Although Eve sinned first, sin is passed by the father
- The evidence of sin is death
 - Genesis 5:1-3
 - Genesis 5:5, 8, 11ff - "he died"!!!
- Our identity problem, and the world's identity crisis is much deeper than identity politics, decisions we make, things we associated with, surgery's you may have to change how you look, and what we can be known for - in fact, those things are symptoms of that which we cannot inherently change.
- Our identity problem is far worse than the world can discern and although the world endeavors to fix the problem, all solutions are symptomatic solutions and do not deal with the disease, at best they are temporary fixes and at worst enable individuals with a victimization mentality to blame someone else.
 - **Isaiah 1:5-7**

Conclusion:

- How is this identity that we cannot change look described by God?
- Is there any way it can be changed?
- Join me in next lesson to learn more about the world's and your identity problem.