

The Identity Crisis in America

IDENTITY: Part 1

July 18, 2021 | Pastor Brian

I am _____.

The Foundation

“Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over [everything]...So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:26–27, NLT)

The Fall

“At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves. When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees.” (Genesis 3:7, NLT)

The Fallout: Identity Crisis

1. Our self-CONCEPT became confused.

...their eyes were opened...

2. Our self-ESTEEM became filled with contempt.

...felt shame at their nakedness...

3. We became self-CONSCIOUS and try to cover up our brokenness.

...they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves...

4. We became self-CENTERED and turned on each other.

“It was the woman you put here with me,” the man said. “She gave me some of the fruit, and I ate it.”” (Genesis 3:12, CEV)

Case Study of Identity Recovery: Moses

Hebrews 11:23–27 (NIV)

²³ By faith Moses’ parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.

²⁴ By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. ²⁵ He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of

greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.
²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

Knowing My Identity...

1. Demonstrates MATURITY.

*"...when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter."
(Hebrews 11:24, NIV)*

2. Defines my RESPONSIBILITIES.

*"He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin."
(Hebrews 11:25, NIV)*

3. Decides my PRIORITIES.

*"He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward."
(Hebrews 11:26, NIV)*

The World's Priorities

(vs. 24) POPULARITY

(vs. 25) PLEASURE

(vs. 26) POSSESSIONS

Moses' Priorities

- 1) EMBRACING GOD'S PURPOSE.
- 2) LOVING GOD'S PEOPLE.
- 3) HAVING GOD'S PEACE.

4. Determines my DESTINY.

*"...Moses left the land of Egypt, not fearing the king's anger. He kept right on going because he kept his eyes on the one who is invisible."
(Hebrews 11:27, NLT)*

How do we recover our Identity?

By faith...by faith...by faith...

*"Christ's life showed me how, and enabled me to do it. I identified myself completely with him. Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ...Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not "mine," but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."
(Galatians 2:20, The Message)*

You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in Thee.
Augustine of Hippo 5th c. AD

ACTION STEPS

1st Base



Ephesians Bible Reading Plan

<https://my.bible.com/reading-plans/22856-ephesians>