

# Dilemma: Identity Theft

June 17 & 18, 2023

*All Bible passages are quoted from the New International Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.*

## **BIG IDEA: Your identity is more than a name and picture.**

**Daniel 1:6-7** | <sup>6</sup> Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. <sup>7</sup> The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

**John 8:12-14** | <sup>12</sup> When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” <sup>13</sup> The Pharisees challenged him, “Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid.” <sup>14</sup> Jesus answered, “Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. ...”

### **1. IDENTITY is found in our purpose.**

**Daniel 2:30,46-47** | <sup>30</sup> As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than anyone else alive, but so that Your Majesty may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind... <sup>46</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. <sup>47</sup> The king said to Daniel, “Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery.”

### **2. Our purpose is to HONOR God and to SERVE others.**

### **3. You are UNIQUELY designed for great things.**

**Ephesians 2:10** | For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

**NEXT STEP: Explore your identity in the context of your purpose.  
Start to serve God in the areas that He has gifted you in.**

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## Further Study & Discussion Questions

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### Getting to Know You:

Do you know your spiritual giftings?

Let's strive to understand our giftings from God and those in our family and small group.

How can we get better at applying our giftings to serve with greater purpose and effectiveness?

### Quick Review:

Was there anything about this week's message that was surprising to you? Was there a specific point or Scripture that made you want to elbow the person sitting next to you? Or maybe made them want to elbow you? What was the one thing you remember most from the message?

### Digging Deeper:

Read: **Ephesians 2:10** and **Colossians 1:16**

**Ephesians 2:10** | For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

**Colossians 1:16** | For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

Why do you think purpose has such a major impact on our identity?

What are some things we tend to find identity in?

Why do you think this is?

How can we make the shift to place our identity in things that honor God and serve others?

### Application:

Evaluate if your identity is currently in something worldly or in God. Find out what your spiritual giftings are ([giftstest.com](http://giftstest.com)). Commit to being aware of the giftings of you and your family/friends- this allows you to encourage them and better serve them. Strive to utilize your giftings on a regular basis this coming week.

*Jesus, reveal in me where I place my identity. I pray to find my identity solely in you as your child. Help me discover and utilize the gifts you have given me through your Holy Spirit.*