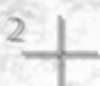




FOR BY THE GRACE
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 EVERYONE AMONG YOU
 NOT TO THINK OF
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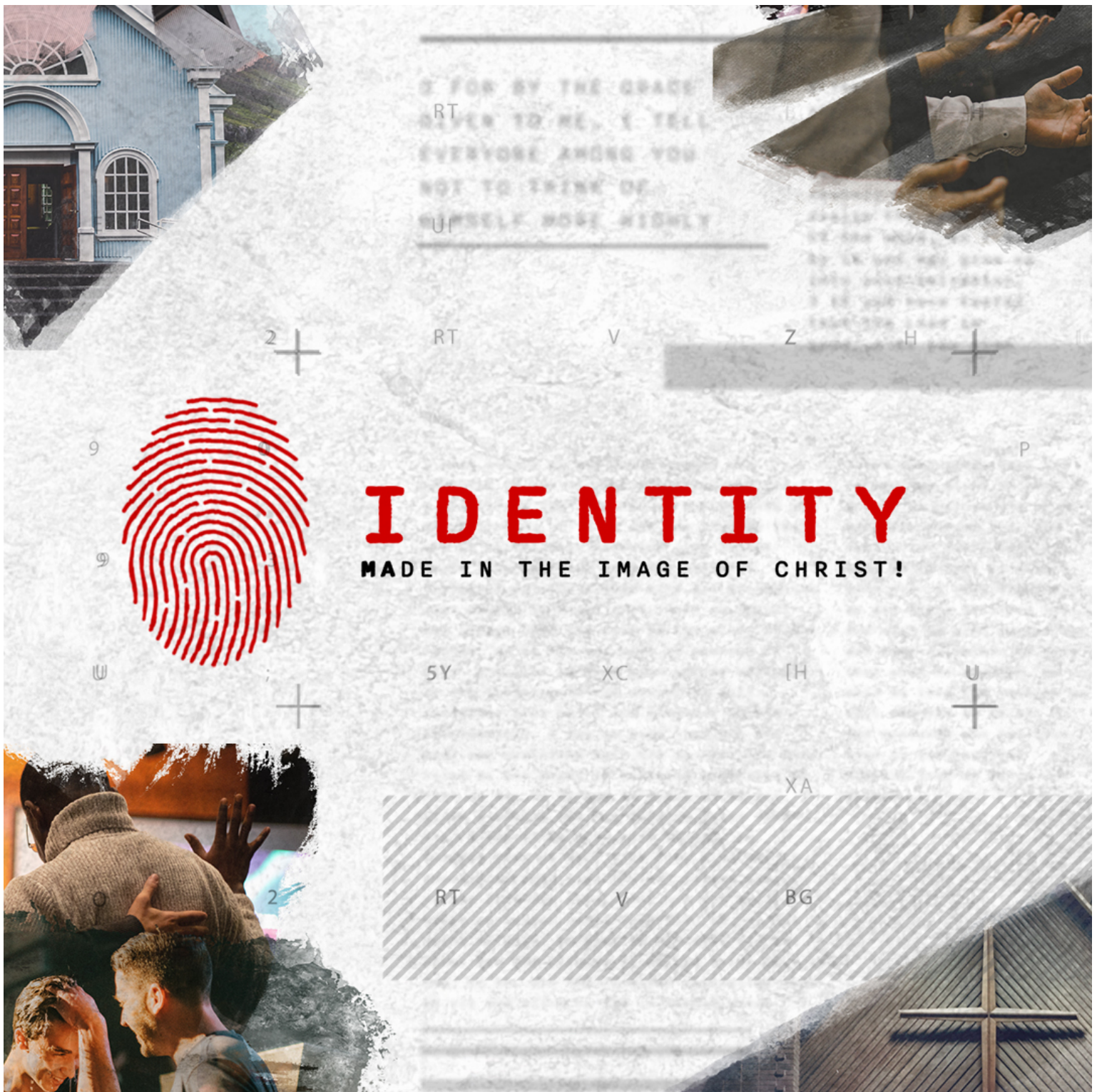
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SESSIONS 1-3





SESSIONS 1

READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.



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BIG IDEA

As a result of God reconciling us to Himself through the death of Christ on the cross, all who believe on the Lord Jesus by faith and accept God's gift of salvation are given a new life. Jesus came to change the world. He came to make all things new. Those who come to faith in Christ are brand new creations. The old life that was bound to the penalty and power of sin is gone and a new life of freedom has begun in Christ.

OPENING

As we explore each element of our identity in Christ, Pastor David began in the place that makes the most sense; the Newness of Life! As He led us through Romans chapter 6 this week during the message, we will look at a complimentary passage that can help us see another side of the newness of life - Paul's message to the Corinthians in 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.

What jumped out at you from the message this week? What led you to really think or even better, to change your actions?

WATCH

What jumped out at you from the video?

READ

As a group, read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. What does Paul remind us in this passage?

Paul reminds the Corinthians that God's new creation has dawned, and they are part of God's handiwork.

What is one of the great doctrines of our faith?

The doctrine of reconciliation: the term 'reconciliation' comes from the Greek word which means to restore. It gives the sense of changing position. In relation to God it is changing from being an enemy of God to being a friend of God.

What must we know before one comes to faith in Christ?



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That before one comes to faith in Christ he or she is an enemy of God. This is caused by the fact that we have a sin nature. Sin separates us from God.

Who makes the first move between man and God in reconciliation?

Because of God's great love for us, He made the first move toward reconciliation. He sent His son, Jesus, to atone for our sin so that we may be reconciled unto Himself.

What does reconciliation mean for us?

Reconciliation means that there used to be a problem. Reconciliation means that there was a ruptured relationship. There was alienation and separation. Reconciliation is the establishment of harmony and peace between enemies. Reconciliation bridges the chasm that existed between two people. Reconciliation means that

the hostility has ended and the two are no longer enemies.

As we discuss reconciliation, what is the first thing we see?

The first thing that we see is A new life. As a result of God reconciling us to Himself through the death of Christ on the cross, all who believe on the Lord Jesus by faith and accept God's gift of salvation are given a new life.

If this is the same old body we had before and it's still in the process of falling apart. How are we being made new?

It's true that you still have the same old body as before, but that body is just an old clay pot. Now we have this treasure in clay jars, so that this extraordinary power may be from God and not from us.

What is the The second thing we see through reconciliation?



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A new position, not only are we given a new life when we are reconciled to God, but we are also given a new position.

What is this new position that we are given?

Paul says that he and the apostles are counted as ambassadors for Christ. An ambassador speaks authoritatively for the ruler, as if the ruler were there in person. This was the role of the apostles. They are able to speak on Christ's behalf.

What is the final thing we see in reconciliation?

The final thing we see is a new responsibility. The responsibility that comes with being one who is reconciled to God.

So, what is our new responsibility?

Our new responsibility is The ministry of reconciliation. As ambassadors of Jesus Christ, our responsibility is to bring as many people to faith in Christ as we possibly can. This is why the church must be outward focused.

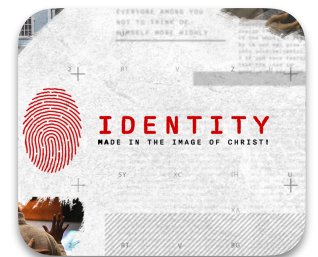
Since Jesus is not physically on this earth during this age what is our responsibility?

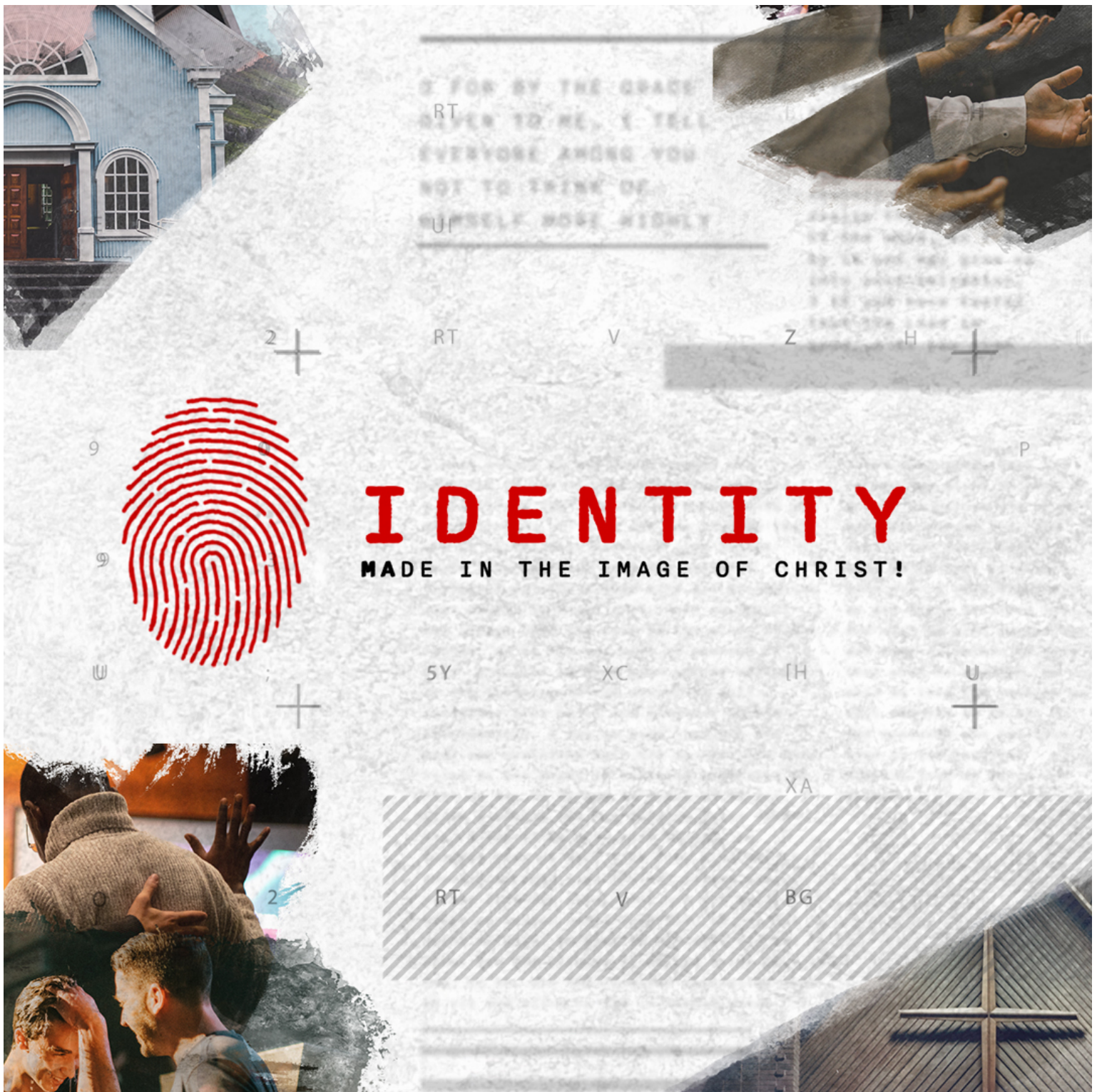
It is the church's responsibility to bring the Gospel to the world. We are Jesus to the world. We must show people Jesus through our words and through the way we live.

LET'S PRAY

Consider the following questions as you pray together as a LifeGroup.

- Have you been reconciled to God?
- Have you been made new? Have you placed your faith and trust in the Lord Jesus?
- If so, are you engaged in the ministry of reconciliation?
- Are there things in your life that is standing in the way of you performing your responsibility as an ambassador of Jesus?





SESSIONS 2

READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

DISCUSS

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BIG IDEA

In Jewish literature, sons of God was a title of highest honor, used only for the members of righteous Israel, destined to inherit the eschatological - or end time - blessings. But now Gentiles - the rejected, the outsiders, the sinners, those who do not observe the law - are called sons of God. How could a Gentile ever be called a child of God? Paul's answer is clear - through faith in Christ Jesus.

OPENING

In session 1 we looked at the Newness of Life and this week, Pastor David continues in the progression as we look at what it means to be Children of God in session 2. As He shepherded us through 1 John chapter 3, i was reminded of a supporting passage by the Apostle Paul that can also help us see our identity as children of God in Galatians 3:25-29.

What jumped out at you from the message this week? What led you to really think or even better, to change your actions?

WATCH

What jumped out at you from the video?

READ

As a group, read Galatians 3:25-29. What is the first thing that faith in Christ brings us?

As a result of our faith in Jesus Christ, believers have the sonship that we need.

What does Paul want us, the gentiles, to know from this passage?

Paul says, "You are ALL sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus." He wanted gentiles to know that because of their faith in Jesus Christ they too, like saved Jews, were "the children of God."

Why does Paul use the phrase sons of God?



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The phrase “sons of God” is great because it refers to mature sons as opposed to children who are still under a tutor or schoolmaster as we saw in v 25.

What was Paul’s point when he used the analogy of a tutor or schoolmaster?

Paul’s point was that those who are under the law are like children under the authority of a schoolmaster, or tutor. But those who have put their “faith in Jesus Christ” are no longer held under bondage to the demands of the law. Therefore, they are now mature sons and daughters.

What has changed since the death burial and resurrection of Jesus?

Under the law, Jews were the children of God, and Gentiles were sinners. But now Gentile Christians are sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. This was certainly a shocking declaration for a Jew to hear.

What is the second thing we see Faith in Christ brings?

The son-ship we enjoy comes from an intimate union with Jesus Christ. Paul declared that this intimacy or union belongs to all believers.

What is accomplished by those baptized by the Spirit of God?

The Holy Spirit enters the person’s life, identifies them with Christ and spiritually places them into the body of Christ. When this happens, Paul said that the believer has “put on Christ.”

What does it mean to “put on Christ?”

This means that the believer is so united with Jesus Christ that it’s like being clothed with Him. Whoever trusts Jesus takes on His righteousness and stands complete in Him. So, when the Father looks at us, He sees Jesus.



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Unity with Christ also means unity with...

Other believers. Our sonship also unifies us with other believers! Coming to Christ in faith and sharing in the “one baptism” by the Holy Spirit should remind us of our essential unity in the Lord.

What does unity with other believers mean?

Because of unity, all earthly differences have been removed. Paul wasn't saying that diversity shouldn't be celebrated, he was saying that ethnic barriers like those between Jews and Greeks - or Gentiles - no longer exist for Christians.

What was so powerful about Christian unity in those days?

In Paul's day it was revolutionary that Jews and Gentiles could live together in the church. It was a radical demonstration of the power of Jesus and

the Gospel to be able to unite those who were previously separated if not downright enemies.

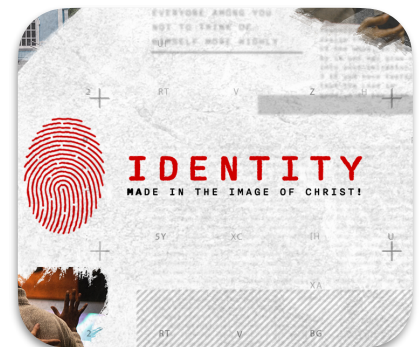
What is so powerful about Christian unity today?

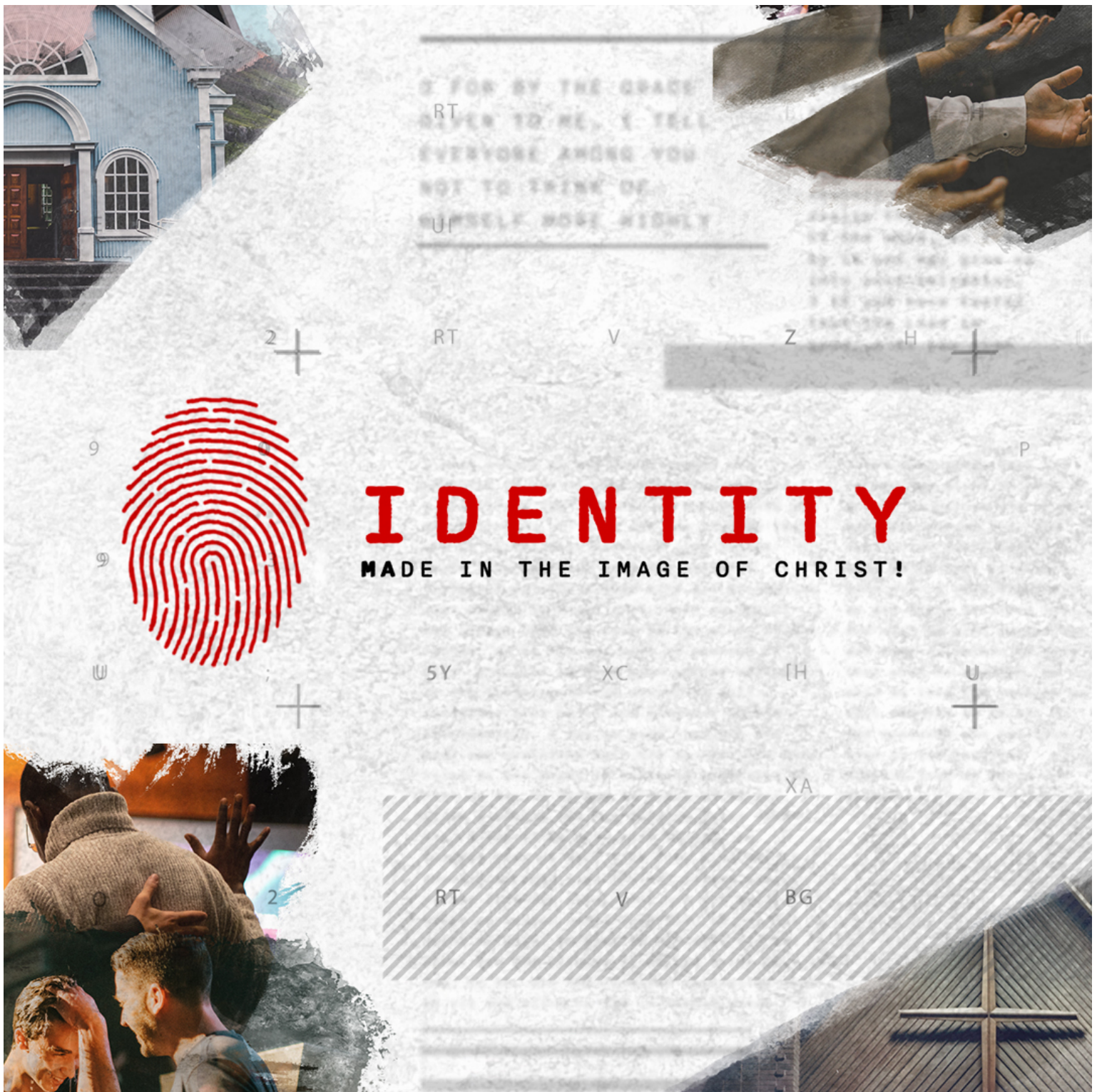
In a time where our world is full of division and crisis we must proclaim this message of equality in Jesus. We seem to be splintering under every description under the sun, trying to encourage division and separation. But because of Jesus there is only one thing we are: Christians.

LET'S PRAY

Consider the following questions as you pray together as a LifeGroup.

- Have you experienced the sonship of Christ or are you still trying to earn your salvation through works and the law?
- Are you, like the world, divided over ethnic, social and gender distinctions or do you see the ultimate unity that being a child of God brings?





SESSIONS 3

READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

WATCH

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DISCUSS

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BIG IDEA

These instructions and commands to Timothy did not come out of a vacuum. Paul is encouraging Timothy from principles that he already knows to be true. What follows is a reiteration of these principles. In fact, these verses are very similar to Paul’s list of the overseer’s qualifications in 1 Tim. 3:1-7. What follows is directly applicable to pastors, elders, and overseers of Christ’s bride, but it also has implications that will convict and encourage us.

WATCH

What jumped out at you from the video?

OPENING

In session 2 we looked at what it means to be a Children of God and now Pastor David continues in the natural progression as we look at what it means to grow up from Children of God into Servants of God. As Pastor David guided us through what it means to be a Servant of God in Mark chapter 10, Paul’s letter to His friend Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:22-26 comes to mind as well.

What jumped out at you from the message this week? What led you to really think or even better, to change your actions?

READ

As a group, read 2 Timothy 2:22-26. What is significant about this passage?

These commands are given in the present tense, which communicates the idea of keep doing this command. Paul is encouraging Timothy to stay the course that he has always been on.

What is the first thing we should do as a servant of God?

flee From Immaturity. It means exactly what you might think, to run away.



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What is the issue over the term "youthful lusts?"

Some are tempted to suggest that lusts here indicates carnal sexual impulses that are so often found in society's youth but we must understand that "youthful lusts" simply indicates a strong desire or passion.

So what youthful lusts should Timothy flee?

They indicate how Timothy might engage these false teachers or how he might rebuke their false ideas in others. Rather than flying off the handle or becoming angry, Timothy is here commanded to continue keeping a cool head. Never give in to youthful passions as you separate from dishonorable people.

What is The second thing we see servants of God commanded to do?

To pursue Holiness and Holy People. To continue pursuing godly virtues. What good does it do to

flee a fire only to run off of a cliff? Timothy must also continue to chase after godliness.

What are the four godly virtues that are listed in this passage?

Righteousness, faith, love, peace.

What is righteousness?

Righteousness is a state of accuracy, correctness, and appropriateness. This single term captures the character and nature of God, who defines what is correct and always acts with precision and appropriateness.

What is faith?

Faith is trust or belief. To one who has already been sanctified and already been prepared for every good work (v. 21), this indicates one who is trustworthy or faithful.



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What is love?

This love, known as agape love, is a love that is completely selfless and looks only and always for another's best. In the context, this is likely referring to the love of others, specifically other believers.

What is peace?

Peace is so much more than a lack of conflict or hostility. The term means harmony or tranquility. It looks past the cessation of conflict to the prosperity that can only occur in a state of harmony. Christ calls us to pursue these virtues and to seek out others who are also in pursuit.

What is the The third thing a servant of God is to do?

refuse to engage in Ignorant Fights. This is a command to refuse to become engaged in foolish

and ignorant arguments, literally "stupid and ignorant debates."

Why, as servants of God, do we do these things?

When we as servants of God Flee from immaturity, pursue holiness and refuse to engage in ignorant fights The word of God tells us that people come to know Christ!

LET'S PRAY

Consider the following questions as you pray together as a LifeGroup.

- Are you fleeing from immaturity or embracing it?
- Are you running after holiness and those who hold to holiness are are you running after this world?
- Are you refusing to engage in foolish debates?
- And most importantly, are you showing kindness and compassion to a lost and dying world?

