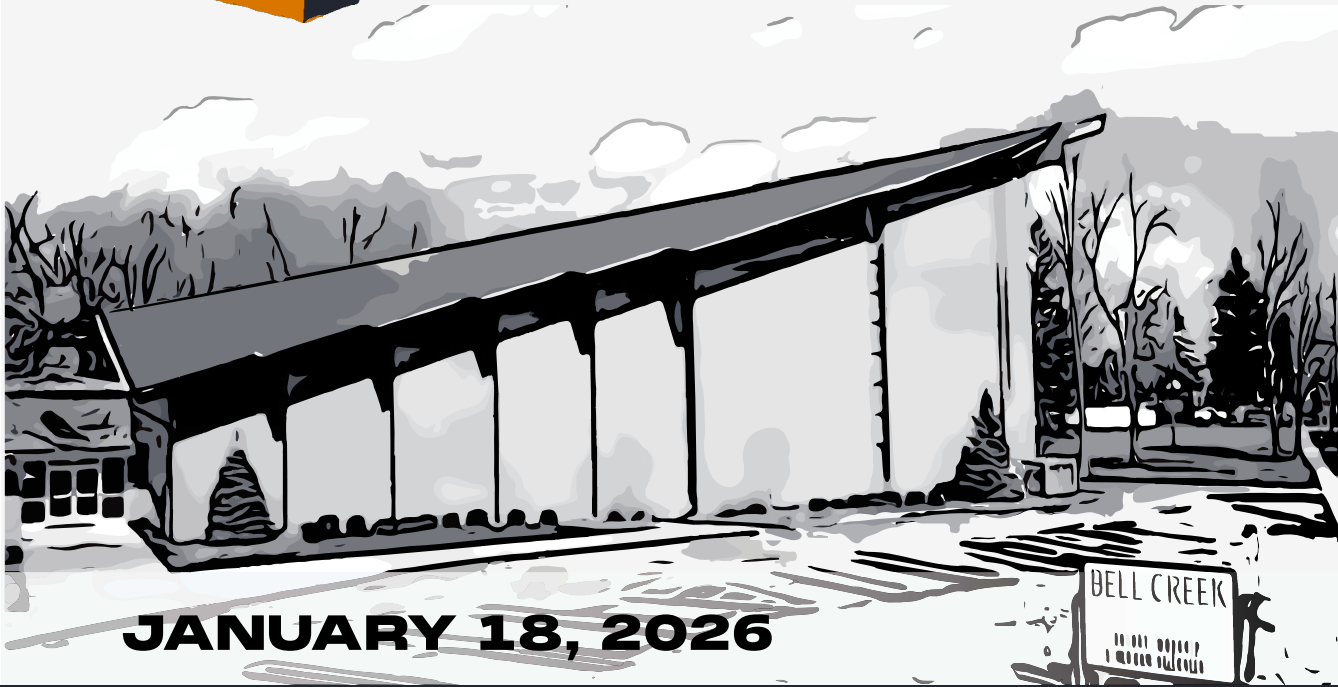


WELCOME TO



BELL CREEK

Community Church



JANUARY 18, 2026

**WHO AM I? THE CRISIS OF IDENTITY AND THE
CALL OF JESUS
GENESIS 3:1-13**

SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT

CURRENT SERMON SERIES:
FOLLOW – OUR JOURNEY WITH JESUS

WHO AM I? THE CRISIS OF IDENTITY AND THE CALL OF JESUS

GENESIS 3:1–13

Our Identity Was Given By God

Our Identity Has Fractured

Our Identity Is Restored In Christ

FOR NEXT WEEK

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:17-18,
Ephesians 1:13-14, Ephesians 2:4-10,
Romans 6:6-11, Colossians 1:12-14,
Colossians 2:13-15, Colossians 3:12-14, 1
John 3:1-3, Philippians 3:20-21,
1 Peter 2:9, Romans 8:35-39,
1 Peter 1:3-5

DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE READING

JANUARY 18: GENESIS 19-21
JANUARY 19: GENESIS 22-24
JANUARY 20: GENESIS 25-26
JANUARY 21: GENESIS 27-29
JANUARY 22: GENESIS 30-31
JANUARY 23: GENESIS 32-34
JANUARY 24: GENESIS 35-37

UPCOMING AT THE CREEK

EVOLUTION: FACT OR FAIRY TALE

Join Bill Durkee for a seminar on Evolution on January 18 & January 25 in the Prayer Room during both services.

NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY CLASS

Join Pastor Dylan to explore the history, literature and theology of each book of the New Testament on Sunday evenings at 6:00 in the Prayer Room.

NEW SMALL GROUP STUDY

Come join us for a new small group starting January 23, meeting every other Friday from 6:45-8:15 PM at the Schmitt house. We will be studying "Seeing the Supernatural" by Lee Strobel and growing our faith by the amazing demonstration of God's power all around us for those who seek him. If you have ever wondered whether God continues to answer prayer or looked for evidence of the Bible's promises of heaven/hell, this book will reinforce your faith. Childcare is available (\$3 per child). Contact Dave Schmitt (313) 805-7227, dcschmitt6@sbcglobal.net for details.

BAPTISM SUNDAY

Our next Baptism will take place on Sunday, January 25 during both services. If you are interested in being baptized as a believer, please contact Pastor Adam (adam@bellcreek.org).

NIGHT TO SHINE

We are so excited to be an official host church, partnering with 242 -Livonia, for this year's "Night to Shine" sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation! The event will be Friday, February 13th from 6:00-9:00 PM at 242 Church on Five Mile. Night to Shine is an unforgettable worldwide celebration event, centered on God's love, honoring and valuing people with special needs. On one night, hundreds of churches of different denominations from all over the world will come together to celebrate people with special needs! To find out how you can be a part of this worldwide movement, visit the information table located in the back of the gym or contact dylan@bellcreek.org.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

PRAYER MEETINGS

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:30 PM

FRIDAYS 12 NOON

PRE-TEEN & MIDDLE SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SUNDAYS AFTER WORSHIP

2ND SERVICE

AWANA

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SEPTEMBER-MAY

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAYS 11:00 AM

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES
AND EVENTS AT BELLCREEK.ORG

OUR MISSION

MATTHEW 22:37–40

He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and prophets depend on these two commandments.”

MATTHEW 28:19–20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember that I am with you always to the end of the age.

STAY CONNECTED

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE!

WWW.BELLCREEK.ORG/CONTACT-US

FOLLOW US!



BELL CREEK
Community Church

30000 FIVE MILE RD.
LIVONIA, MI 48154

Follow – Our Journey with Jesus

SERMON 3 – “Who Am I? The Crisis of Identity and the Call of Jesus”

Scripture: Genesis 3:1–13

Our Identity Was Given By God (Genesis 1–2)

“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”” (Genesis 1:26, ESV)

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:27, ESV)

“And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”” (Genesis 1:28, ESV)

Our God-given identity flows into our purpose and vocation. God defines who we are and then commands us to fulfill our purpose.

Our identity was bestowed by God, rooted in a secure relationship with Him.

The World says, “You must discover who you are and then express it. You can be whatever you choose to be.”

Scripture says, “You are created by God in His image and for His purposes. Go, and glorify Him by joyfully fulfilling what you are made for.”

Our Identity Was Fractured (Genesis 3)

“Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the LORD

God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”” (Genesis 3:1–13, ESV)

The Fall of Human Beings into Sin: We decide that we want to determine for ourselves what is good and what is evil. At that point, we not only disobey God but also reject His authority over us. One effect of this is that we say, in essence, “Why does God get to tell us who we are? I will decide for myself who I am and what I will do with my life.”

We see this pattern again in Genesis 11 after the Flood. Humans gather to make their own “heaven,” saying, “let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” (Genesis 11:4, ESV)

Our self-definition replaces the true identity God bestowed upon us, with disastrous consequences:

Look at the sequence of responses of our first parents (Adam and Eve) and the consequences that follow after they sin: Shame leads to Hiding from God, which leads to Blaming each other, God, and the Enemy, which leads to Fractured Relationships with God and each other, which leads to Exile.

The consequences of rejecting who God has defined us to be (which is truth and reality) are detrimental to us: emotionally, cognitively, behaviorally, relationally, and vocationally.

Humans are not built for an identity vacuum. If we do not allow God to define who we are, we will spend our lives either trying (and failing) to define ourselves or being defined by others.

What are some of the things that contribute to a modern person’s “identity?” Sexuality, work, education, politics, appearance, ethnicity, family background, personality, ideology, past experiences (good and bad), and wealth (or its absence).

Many of these are not bad in and of themselves, but they become idols when we allow them to define us. And what is an idol? An idol is often a good thing, that becomes a “god-thing” and then it becomes an evil thing.

Listen once more to this list and reflect on the terrible power these categories wield over us if we let them define us: sexuality, work, education, politics, appearance, ethnicity, family background, personality, ideology, past experiences (both good and bad), and wealth (or its absence).

Modern idols do not only say “Worship me,” but “Become me.”

If we do allow God to define who we are, we will spend our lives trying (and failing) to define ourselves or being defined by others.

Our Identity Is Restored In Christ

In Genesis 3, after Adam and Eve sinned, God sought them, clothed them, and made a promise to them (Genesis 3:15).

This is what He does for us in Christ! Jesus seeks us; if we surrender to Him, He clothes us in His righteousness, and He promises us forgiveness, the indwelling Holy Spirit, and eternal life.

“But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.” (Isaiah 43:1, ESV)

What does God say about His redeemed people? We are forgiven, sealed for redemption, children of God, new creations, saints, beloved, citizens of Heaven, and ambassadors for Christ.

Christ doesn't just forgive sinners; He renames them, giving them a new identity and purpose.

Remember where we started this series? Jesus calls us Mark 1:16–20 - “Follow Me, and I will make you become...”

The Identity He bestows upon us flows into our purpose of Glorifying God, discipleship, and obedience.

Application? Who or what is currently defining who you are?

For those of us who know Jesus, let's ask ourselves, “Am I living from the identity Christ bestowed on me? Where has my identity subtly shifted from being 'in Christ' to being 'in' something else - in my job, my politics, my wealth, or in my past?

If you have not yet responded to Jesus' invitation to follow Him, may I ask you, “If God exists and created you in His image, what would it mean for your identity to be received from Him rather than invented by you? Would that be frightening to you? It should be! God's call is an upheaval of who we are! But it is unspeakably good! And if you tell yourself the truth, don't you want to be free from the exhausting burden of self-construction?”

Listen to Jesus' invitation: “Follow Me.” This is not an attack on your freedom but an offer to restore it. It is the beginning of the reclamation of who you are truly designed by God to be and what you are designed to do!

The world tells us to invent ourselves, but the Lord Jesus invites us to follow Him and be remade, or as Jesus puts it, to be “born again” with a new name, a new purpose, new hope, and the promise of everlasting life.



FOLLOW – “Who Am I? The Crisis of Identity and the Call of Jesus”

1. What did you think of the sermon “FOLLOW – Our Journey with Jesus”?

2. When you strip away your roles, achievements, failures, and labels, what do you rely on to answer the question, “Who am I?” Does the identity that God gives and the identity you assume differ? Why?

3. Genesis shows progression from shame, to hiding, to blaming, ultimately leading to fractured relationships. Which of these (if any) can you see at work in your own life, and what does that reveal about where you may be resisting God’s authority?

4. Which “good things” (sexuality, work, education, family, past experiences, success, failure, politics, wealth, approval, etc.) have shifted from gifts to identity markers in your life? How have these identities promised meaning but instead produced anxiety, fear, or exhaustion?

5. Jesus says, “Follow Me, and I will make you become...” What would it look like this week to live from your identity in Christ rather than your own assumed identity?

