

Human Identity and Introduction to the Doctrine of Scripture

Wednesday, January 31st, 2024

Two key scripture passages:

1. Ephesians 2:1-9

2. Colossians 3:1-10

Two initial questions:

> What do you think “identity” means?

> What is identity?

Going Further:

> What are key characteristics that give identity?

> Where do these characteristics come from?

What Forms Identity?

> View of what reality is (Metaphysics)

> How we know truth or know anything
(Epistemology)

> Values (ethics/morality) based upon these
two above mentioned points

Modern Example of someone who is:

> Non-binary (Gender Identity)

- Non-conformity to male or female
(definitions of male and female)

- Can be either male or female (physical traits)

- “Innate gender” determines true identity

Non-Binary Example:

> Reality is inward and outward—but mostly inward

> Values (morals and ethics) are determined by this reality and innate feelings

> Innate knowledge is true knowledge

> How do they (or does anyone) know that knowledge is truthful because it is “innate”?
This is the question!

> If truth is based upon “innate feelings” and that determines what reality is, that’s a problem!

People may not like our answer, but as
Christians we believe in *Revealed Truth*:

> *General Revelation (Creation — informed
by special revelation)*

> *Special Revelation (God's Spoken Word[s])*

Special Revelation determines what is true:

> Without God speaking (General and Special Revelation), it would be impossible to justify anything—knowledge, reality, science, psychology, history, morals, ethics, innate feelings

> Without Revelation, we only have us...

There are two identities in Scripture:

> What are they?

Two Identities:

1. The Old Man (the former way of life)

> In Adam (Rom. 5:12-14)

2. The New Man (Current/renewed way of life)

> In Christ (Rom. 5:15-21)

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Why is this relevant?

1. We need God's Word.

2. God's Word tells us who we are

3. God's Word tells us our need

> Scripture gives us the true road to life. It is relevant to understand the actual, true us—our true and purposeful identity

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