

Lesson #1 – Identity Matters

Wednesday, October 6, 2021 – Young Adults

WHO ARE YOU?

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

You came to this planet with a purpose. You came here with a plan for your life. You came here with an assignment and your responsibility is to find out what it is.

Identity is a Core Issue.

What you and I believe about God and about ourselves are two of the most central and foundational beliefs in our heart.

>>> **The further these internal beliefs skew away from the truth, the more havoc they will wreak on our behavior. The result will be chaos & confusion.** <<<

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

People who begin embracing a lie about their identity will constantly struggle with confusion.

Jesus warned us in Matt 7:15-20 to be careful and on guard about the people whose teaching we allow to influence our opinions.

¹⁵ “Beware of the false prophets, [teachers] who come to you dressed as sheep [appearing gentle and innocent], but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ²⁰ Therefore, by their fruit you will recognize them [as false prophets].

Jesus went on to warn us that we can frame our lives around false assumptions and self-deception.

²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me on that day [when I judge them], ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, and driven out demons in Your name, and done many miracles in Your name?’

²³ And then I will declare to them publicly, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME [you



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are banished from My presence], YOU WHO ACT WICKEDLY [disregarding My commands].'

LET'S LOOK AT HOW ESSENTIAL JESUS' IDENTITY WAS TO HIS PURPOSE.

At the age of 30, Jesus was baptized by John. In Matthew, Mark and Luke it records that the people witnessed a voice speaking out of Heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased". Matt 3:17

Jesus was about to begin His ministry – think about how important these words were at this specific time.

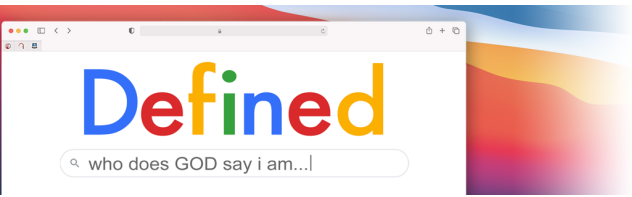
Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness for 40 days where he had 3 different encounters with the devil. 2 of those encounters were the devil tempting him with attacks on his identity.

- "If you are the Son of God..."
- Each time, Jesus responded with the truth of the scripture rather than His own feelings
- He didn't try to prove who He was, He trusted in what His Father had declared.

After the wilderness experience, Jesus is traveling back to His hometown in Nazareth.

- He goes into the synagogue and publicly reads:
Luke 4:18 New King James Version
¹⁸ "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to *the* poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to *the* captives
And recovery of sight to *the* blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;

- The people didn't celebrate their Messiah had come.



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- They questioned, “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?”
- They were filled with anger & rage and even tried to kill Jesus.
- His first day of ministry resulted in an attempted murder.
- His mission was carried out by Him knowing Who He was and showing Who He was – the Son of God

The enemy will always challenge who God says you are. Your true identity.

WHAT IS AN IDENTITY?

A simple definition is, it describes who you are in entirety. It’s what makes you, You, your individual characteristics by which you are known.

But all of us, whether you know it or not, have a God-given identity.

When you are born again and become a child of God, you have a new identity based on the things that God says about you.

YOUR NATURAL/PHYSICAL IDENTITY BEGAN TO BE FORMED THE DAY YOU WERE BORN.

The doctor pronounced if you were a boy or girl & then your parents gave you your name.

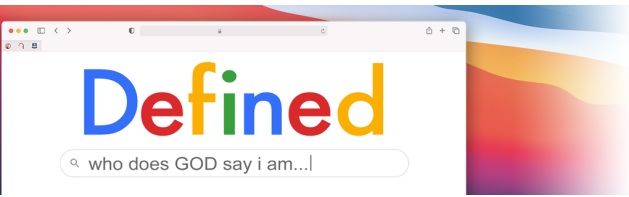
But you are more than your name. Your name identifies you to a degree but there’s so much more to you than just your name.

Every one of us is on an identity journey.

- We’re born knowing nothing about ourselves
- We’re instantly brought into the school of life
 - Lessons that come through what we see, hear & feel
 - Some of the influences in our lives are trustworthy, some are totally unreliable.

What has the School of Life taught you about yourself?

- Do you know who you really are?



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- You may assume that you know, but the truth is that your identity is actually a deep, underlying part of your thinking all the time, every day.

Why is it important what you believe about yourself & that you have the right self-perception?

- Because your belief about your own identity and worth either clarifies or confuses the choices you make in life.
- It affects every area, including the way you think and the way you feel at any given time, the way you approach daily opportunities, the way you react to problems.

When you discover the truth about your identity and your value, it has the power to make you free. **John 8:32 You will know the truth and the truth will make you free.**

DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE? (Mirror Illustration)

If someone placed a mirror in front of you today and offered you a million dollars to be 100% honest and share everything you possibly could about the person looking back at you, what would you say?

Whether it took hours or days to pour out your heart in an effort to define who you are, imagine being asked to look back into that mirror, fix your eyes on your own eyes, and answer the following challenging questions:

- Do you genuinely like, respect, and care about the person you see?
- What do you truly think about this person?
- Are you grateful to be you or do you wish you were someone else?
- Are you angry or grateful with what God has done in your life?
- How loved and affirmed did you feel by your parents growing up?
- Did they make you feel valued and understood?



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- How loved do you feel today in your current relationships?
- What does God think about you?
- Do you feel He accepts you, tolerates you or rejects you?
- Do you genuinely believe He loves you?
- How deeply have you been hurt by others?
- Are you still hurting or have you healed completely?
- When was the last time you were happy and had peace inside?
- What do you believe is the purpose of your life? Do you have any idea?

To know and be known is a powerful thing.

To love and be loved is a beautiful thing.

To know your purpose and fulfill it is a priceless thing.

But to know God and be known and loved by Him is better than life itself.

It is life – eternal life

John 17:3 NLT And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, as I begin this journey of discovery, I pray that You will open the eyes of my heart to discover and know the truth about who You are, about who I truly am, and who You created me to be. Give me the grace and strength to trust You with whatever I find. Help me to know Your love and to find and fulfill your greater purpose for my life. In Jesus' name. Amen