

THE WAY OF JESUS: IDENTITY

Sermon Series : The Way of Jesus

Speaker : Mike Tatlock

Date : September 22, 2019

“Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you” (Rom 12:3).

Modernity:

- It emphasized the rejection of tradition and the prioritization of individualism
- Rejection of Supernatural for the Natural
- Human achievements are the solution to our future

Post-Modernity:

- A reaction to the optimism of modernity filed by a skepticism of truth and concrete conclusions
- A desire to deconstruct paradigms that didn't fulfill their promises
- Truth is no longer objective but subjective

Today's Identity Problem:

- The truth of who we are is no longer established for us, but we must establish that for ourselves
- For this reason we become concerned with constructing a 'Narrative of Self' so we can convince ourselves we have a stable identity
- Consumerism and social technology provides consumers with the symbolic resources with which to (re)construct their identities
- This “Supermarket Self” is both a source of exhilaration (we are free to construct ourselves) and anxiety (we really don't know who we are at the deepest level)
- The people we value most have the most control over our identity.
- [Romans 12:3](#)

Rev 12:10; Gal 3:27–28; Matt 16:24; Romans 8:14-17

- To Accuse (Kategoria): To place a person into a category with defining characteristics
- A suspicious culture breeds an accusative culture
- Identity and Destiny are linked. Satan wants to sabotage your identity in order to sabotage your destiny.

QUESTIONS

1. When asked to share about yourself, what are the key elements of your life/identity you share?
2. What have been the key influences that shape/have shaped your identity?
3. What is the scariest thing about being honest with others about your identity?
 - a. When sharing your true self with friends/believers?
 - b. When sharing your Christian identity with non-Christians?
4. What is your identity according to the Bible? (Try to find the actual verses!)
 - a. Which of these biblical truths is easiest to accept?
 - b. Which of these biblical truths is hardest to accept?

(see next page!)

PRAYER

- **Pray for our building permit to be granted by the city of Wilsonville.** It has successfully passed through all the necessary stages so far; but we can't start building until we have this!
- **Pray for us to receive a written parking agreement with OIT.** There will be limited parking on our new property and a Sunday-morning-use agreement would be extremely beneficial to us.
- **Pray for our lending process to be approved.** We have been told that the health of our church's finances are in the top 1% for USA! We are waiting on the final approval for our lending!