



SHELTER



COUCH TALKS

IDENTITY AND JESUS
AUGUST 31, 2022

Small "i" identity

- Small "i" identity refers to who we appear to be on the outside; the most accessible parts of us which portray our likes, interests, and general attitudes.
- Is highly influenced by our friends, family, and wider culture.
- Examples include; what we wear, what we listen to, what we enjoy doing, what makes us laugh, etc...
- Is important in differentiating us from others.

Big "I" Identity

- Big "I" Identity refers to who we are at our core; the deepest parts of us which determines our values, life-goals, and beliefs.
- Is influenced by others but can only be solidified by us.
- Examples include; what we believe about our place in the universe, how we view others, our relationship with God, etc...
- Is important in molding the most central parts of who we are.

THINGS THE WORLD BELIEVE ABOUT IDENTITY

- The World often claims that little "i" identity is Big "I" Identity.
- The World claims that what you "feel" in the moment, what you wear/like, or how you chose to express yourself is the "Real You" when, in reality, these are all little-i identity issues.
- It takes a "feature" of who we are and makes that the entirety of who we are.
- The danger of this thinking is that it clutters our Big-I Identity with small unrelated things and can confuse us.
- Example: "Don't let anyone tell you that what you feel to be true RIGHT THIS SECOND is anything other than the real, authentic you..."



THINGS THE CHURCH BELIEVE ABOUT IDENTITY

- The Church often claims that there is no little-i identity.
- The Church claims that all Big "I" Identities have to look, sound, and act the same as all others who have the same Big "I" identifies.
- It dictates how people should/shouldn't be based on arbitrary cultural bias's that it mistakes for Biblical-truth.
- The danger of this thinking is that it causes people to question their true Identity based on small differences in aesthetic preference.
- Example: "*Real* Christians watch/listen to/wear etc..."



IDENTITY IN THE BIBLE

- Queen Esther (Esther 4:14)
 - Even though Esther's core identity was in being a child of God, it was nevertheless her small-i identity that helped her change the world by saving her family and her people.
- Paul (1 Corinthians 11:1)
 - Even though there were many things that made Paul unique and different from everyone else on earth, he still found his core Identity in his pursuit of Jesus Christ and encouraged others to imitate christ as well.

THINGS THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT IDENTITY

- Because God made us in His image, our deepest Identity will only be made whole in pursuing him. (Genesis 1:27)
- Each one of us is made uniquely. (Psalm 139:14)
- Our uniqueness becomes more pronounced when we're made christ-like. (John 15:5)
- Therefore, we should focus on forming our Big-I identity off Christ! (Ephesians 4:24)



Becoming "Christ-Like"

- To view others the way Jesus views them.
- To view your life from a God-focused perspective.
- To enjoy the Fruit of the Holy Spirit (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control)
- Accept God's view on the values of things in this world.

LAST THOUGHT

WHEN WE PUT JESUS ON
THE THRONE OF OUR BIG-I
IDENTITY, OUR SMALL-I
IDENTITY WILL
EVENTUALLY BE
TRANSFORMED AS WELL!

