

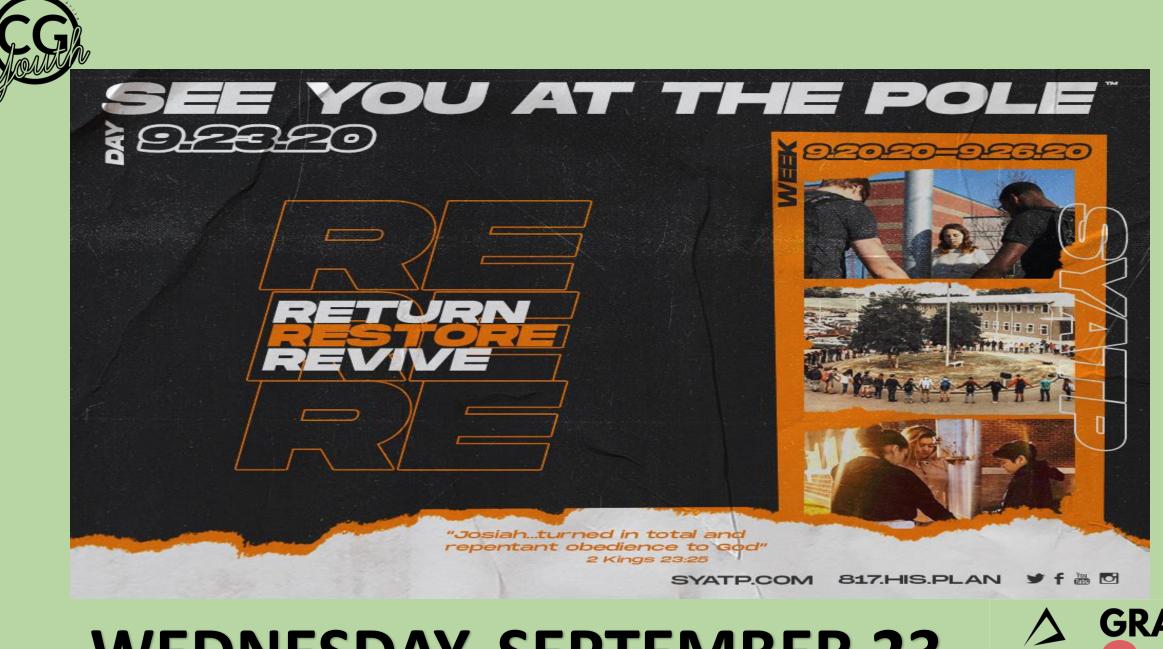




PRAY CAMPAIGN

PLEASE COMPLETE THE PRAYER SHEET





WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23





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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1







PART 3

Finding Our True Identity in Christ





PACKAGING What Is In Your Package?







How much time do you spend each morning making your package look good?





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PACKAGING

What impact do your friends packaging have on the way you change your package?









Isaiah 64:8

"O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand"







II Corinthians 12:9–10 "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong"







Psalm 139: 13-16

13 Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother's womb. 14 I thank you, High God - you're breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adoration - what a creation! 15 You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something. 16 Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before you, The days of my life all prepared before I'd even lived one day.







1. Parents

God not only chose the father and mother who brought you into the world, He also fully understood the factors and circumstances that surrounded your conception and birth. Since the Fall of Adam and Eve, God has had to work through imperfect parents to accomplish His purposes in the world. Some of the weaknesses in your parents will be passed on to you. To compensate for this challenge, God provides special grace to deal with imperfections. 2 Corinthians 12:9







2. Physical Features

God prescribed all of your physical features before you were born—your height, voice, body build, metabolism, complexion, eyes, ears, hands, feet, and countless other features, down to the smallest detail. They are expressions of His love and creativity, and they are part of His purpose for you. Psalm 139





3. Gender

God created male and female and made a clear distinction between them. Wishing to be of the opposite sex will hinder you from accepting the God-given responsibilities He has assigned to your gender. Genesis 1:27







4. Brothers and Sisters

Accepting brothers and sisters involves accepting their personalities, abilities, and talents as well as their physical defects and failures. Through the relationships and challenges you encounter together, God will develop character qualities in your lives. If you do not have siblings, God will use other ways to build Godly qualities in your life and prepare you for the future. Loneliness can serve as a signal to deepen your walk with God and invest in the lives of others. Colossians 3:12–15





5. Birth Order

As you accept and understand the special characteristics, tendencies, and needs that relate directly to your birth order, you can avoid the destructive rivalry and bitterness that are so common in families.







6. Ethnicity

Each ethnic group has a unique culture and characteristics, but these "races" are actually one "race" descended from common parents—Adam and Eve. Rejecting your ethnic and ancestral background will produce detrimental attitudes of either inferiority or superiority. Accepting your heritage will help you see other people as the special work of God's design.

Ephesians 4:4–6





7. Place of Origin

The place where you are from, either nationally or regionally, brings with it both benefits and limitations. It may include certain deficiencies that you must overcome. Understanding and accepting your place of origin can bring special opportunities to build relationships. Galatians 3:28–29







8. Time in History

Since God has a special purpose for your life, He has brought you into the world at just the right time in history to fulfill that purpose. To wish that you had been born in a different time is to reject God's purpose for your existence at this time. Ephesians 2:10







9. Mental Capacity

God created you with the mental aptitudes and abilities that are best suited to achieve His purpose for you.





10. Aging and Time of Death

God created Adam and Eve to live indefinitely, but on the day they sinned, the death process began. Signs of aging are God's reminders to make good use of the life span He has chosen for you. You can look forward to eternity with Him. Aging should motivate us to invest in the lives of others, such as children and grandchildren, by counseling and teaching them.

Psalm 73:25–26

Psalm 90





1. Parents

2. Physical Features

3. Gender

- 4. Brothers and Sisters
- 5. Birth Order
- 6. Ethnicity
- 7. Place of Origin
- 8. Time in History
- 9. Mental Capacity
- 10. Aging and Time of Death





1. His Parents: A Shadow of Illegitimacy

Since Mary and Joseph were not married when Mary conceived Christ by the Holy Spirit, others assumed that Jesus' birth was the result of fornication. Joseph himself prepared to terminate their betrothal until an angel confirmed Mary's integrity. (See Matthew 1:18–25.) The Jewish leaders, however, held the circumstances against the couple. In the midst of Christ's ministry, the Pharisees contemptuously said to Him, "We be not born of fornication ... " (John 8:41). His parents were poor.





2. His Time in History: A Wicked Ruler

When King Herod learned that a king of the Jews had been born, he gave an order to kill all Jewish baby boys two years old and younger in the vicinity of Bethlehem. (See Matthew 2:16.) Imagine how Jesus must have felt, knowing that His birth prompted the murder of many children.





3. His Race: A Despised People

Surrounding nations hated the Israelites and took opportunities to plunder and oppress the Jewish people.







4. His Nation: A Conquered Land

Jesus grew up in a land that had been conquered by Rome and was occupied by Roman soldiers. Ultimately, the Romans crucified Him. (See Luke 2:1–3 and John 18:28–19:30.)







5. His Gender: A Predetermined Vocation

In the day of Christ, sons were trained in the vocation of their fathers. Even though Jesus came to earth with a special mission from His heavenly Father, He was expected to labor in His earthly father's trade until He was thirty years old. Consequently, when Jesus began His ministry, He was not known as the Son of God but rather as the carpenter's son. (See Luke 3:23 and Matthew 13:55.)







6. His Birth Order: A Lifetime Responsibility

Jesus was the firstborn son and as such was responsible to care for the family if anything happened to His father. During Christ's youth, His father did die. Thereafter, Jesus assumed the continuing care of His widowed mother. Christ fulfilled this responsibility until His death, when He transferred Mary's care to His disciple, John. (See John 19:26–27.)





7. His Family: A Prophet Without Honor

People are often misunderstood or rejected by their own family members. Christ experienced this challenge during His ministry as well. His friends accused Him of being insane, and His mother and brothers came to His place of preaching to take Him home. (See Mark 3:21–22, 3:31–32.) His brothers' actions demonstrated their unbelief. (See John 7:5.)





8. His Appearance: A Lack of Beauty

We do not have a detailed description of Christ's appearance during His earthly ministry, but He did not possess unusually handsome features. "He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him" (Isaiah 53:2).





9. His Divine Nature: An Offense to Friends

When Jesus stood up in the synagogue of His hometown and declared Who He was and what He had come to do, His own friends and neighbors were so offended they wanted to kill Him. (See Luke 4:16–30.)







10. His Death: A Public Shame

The time and circumstances of Jesus' death were chosen for Him. Crucifixion was the most painful and ruthless form of execution devised by man. (See Galatians 3:13.) It was a sentence reserved for the worst offenders.





WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS INFORMATION?

- We make a list of the things we don't like about ourselves and we determine if they are non-negotiable and God given.
- 2. We pray about our list and ask God to give us courage to accept the parts we don't like that he Gave us.
- 3. We make a list of things we can change about ourselves and work on a plan to make those changes.
 - We thank God for being fearfully and wonderfully made.
- 5. We seek help when we can not come to terms with parts of us that we struggle to accept.



NEXT WEEK WE WILL LOOK AT YOUR LABELING AND HOW DO WE LIVE WITH LABELS WE ARE GIVEN OR WE GIVE TO OTHERS.

THIS WEEK:

THINK ABOUT YOUR PACKAGE,

HOW YOU CAN BE MORE ACCEPTING

OF THE PACKAGE GOD HAS GIVEN YOU.



