

THE FALL OF IDENTITY

MADE IN HIS IDENTITY

Genesis 2

Imago Dei – Image of God

Why we were made...

We were uniquely and intentionally created as man and woman

by **God** for/from **love**, **community** and **purpose**;

to bear his image and **glorify** him through **worship**.

OUR ATTEMPT TO FIX IT

Starving for.....We settled for...

- God.....**Autonomy**
Romans 1
- Love.....**Sex**
Genesis 2:20-25
- Community.....**Independence**
Hebrews 10:24-25 Galatians 6:2 Romans 12:13
- Purpose.....**Success**
Ephesians 2:10 Ecclesiastes 5:10
- Glory.....**Fame**
Isaiah 43
- Worship.....**Self-Obsession**
Romans 1:21-23

How to interpret the world in light of this knowledge:

- (1) Be **compassionate** to others.
- (2) We're **losing** but we've **won**.
- (3) We will feel the fullness of true identity **again**.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 15, 2017

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. The loss of identity Christopher talked about results in an ongoing sense of discontentment with things of this world because they were never meant to satisfy us. There are many areas where this discontentment can show up (i.e. job success, housing, self-image, education, relationships, clothing, health, money, possessions, and much more). In which of these areas of discontentment do you think the people in your relational circle struggle with the most?

Can you think of any healthy and/or unhealthy ways people deal with this discontentment?

2. Christopher mentioned that there are transcendent moments that give us a glimpse of who God is and our tremendous value and worth to him. Have you ever experienced one of those moments? If so, what was it like?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Having been created in God's image and adopted into the family of God gives followers of Jesus great intrinsic value and worth. How do the following passages help you understand the value and worth that God has given every one of his children?

Psalm 8:1-9 *New International Version (NIV)*

For the director of music. According to *gittith*. A psalm of David.

¹ LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory in the heavens.

² Through the praise of children and infants

you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.

³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,

which you have set in place,

⁴ what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?

⁵ You have made them a little lower than the angels
and crowned them with glory and honor.

⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their feet:

⁷ all flocks and herds,

and the animals of the wild,

⁸ the birds in the sky,

and the fish in the sea,

all that swim the paths of the seas.

⁹ LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Ephesians 2:10 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. ¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

Luke 12:6-7 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁶ Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. ⁷ Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Based on what you heard in the sermon and your answers to this question, what are some things you might share with someone who doubts their value and worth to God?

2. This weekend we heard how the loss of identity in the Fall has sent all humans on a quest to find fulfillment and satisfaction. The book of Ecclesiastes records King Solomon's wide-ranging attempts to find these. As you read the following passages from Ecclesiastes, jot down the things Solomon did to try to satisfy his longing for identity and the insights he arrived at from those pursuits.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 *New International Version (NIV)*

Pleasures Are Meaningless

¹ I said to myself, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good." But that also proved to be meaningless. ² "Laughter," I said, "is madness. And what does pleasure accomplish?" ³ I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly—my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was good for people to do under the heavens during the few days of their lives.

⁴ I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. ⁵ I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. ⁶ I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. ⁷ I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. ⁸ I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well—the delights of a man's heart. ⁹ I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me.

¹⁰ I denied myself nothing my eyes desired;

I refused my heart no pleasure.

My heart took delight in all my labor,
and this was the reward for all my toil.

¹¹ Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done
and what I had toiled to achieve,
everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind;
nothing was gained under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 4:4-8 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁴ And I saw that all toil and all achievement spring from one person's envy of another. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

⁵ Fools fold their hands
and ruin themselves.

⁶ Better one handful with tranquillity

than two handfuls with toil
and chasing after the wind.
7 Again I saw something meaningless under the sun:
8 There was a man all alone;
he had neither son nor brother.
There was no end to his toil,
yet his eyes were not content with his wealth.
“For whom am I toiling,” he asked,
“and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?”
This too is meaningless—
a miserable business!

Ecclesiastes 5:10-16 *New International Version (NIV)*

10 Whoever loves money never has enough;
whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.
This too is meaningless.
11 As goods increase,
so do those who consume them.
And what benefit are they to the owners
except to feast their eyes on them?
12 The sleep of a laborer is sweet,
whether they eat little or much,
but as for the rich, their abundance
permits them no sleep.
13 I have seen a grievous evil under the sun:
wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners,
14 or wealth lost through some misfortune,
so that when they have children
there is nothing left for them to inherit.
15 Everyone comes naked from their mother’s womb,
and as everyone comes, so they depart.
They take nothing from their toil
that they can carry in their hands.
16 This too is a grievous evil:
As everyone comes, so they depart,
and what do they gain,
since they toil for the wind?

How would you summarize Solomon’s observations and conclusions in one sentence?

3. Pastor Rick Warren wrote the bestselling book, *The Purpose Driven Life*. In it he says, “The purpose of your life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment, your happiness... your family or your career. If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God. You were born by his purpose and for his purpose.” What do the following passages have to say about what our purpose is in life?

Mark 12:28-31 *New International Version (NIV)*

The Greatest Commandment

²⁸ One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

²⁹ “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

1 Corinthians 10:31 *New International Version (NIV)*

³¹ So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

Matthew 28:19-20 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Colossians 3:17 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Glorifying God shows up in a couple of these passages. A simple definition of what it means to glorify God is to make him look good. Can you think of two or three things that would be true of someone who was living a life that glorified God?

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back on this week’s teaching and homework, what’s most important for you to remember?

Praise/Prayer Requests:

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THE DAILY DOSE – Want a daily dose of a devotional throughout the “Identity Theft” sermon series? Text the keyword “daily” to 51400 to receive quick devotional videos and resources throughout the week. Standard text message rates apply. For questions, please email info@northcoastchurch.com



REAL MAN WEEKEND – “The Palomar Experience”- Oct. 27-29

Lookin’ for some crazy guy stuff to do? Want to kick back or get refocused on God? Join us for another epic man’s weekend that will get you recharged and refreshed as Chris Brown leads us into a look at what a real man is and isn’t! The weekend will also include plenty of man event options like paintball, high ropes course, skeet shooting, archery, zipline, horseback riding, etc. Space is limited so don’t delay! Register online at northcoastchurch.com/real-man-weekend.