

SIGNIFICANCE

Devotional | Identity: Who Am I? | November 20, 2022

GRACE
FELLOWSHIP

Discuss: Where do people look to try to discover their identity?

Key Text: *"If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night'*

12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you. 13 For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. 17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! 18 If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you." (Psalm 139:11-18)

In our series "Significance," we're studying what the Bible says about several vital life issues: Origin, Identity, Purpose, Predicament, Solution, and Destiny. Today's topic is "Identity." The search for identity and meaning can drive a person to great successes or tragic failure. For the Christian, we find the question to our identity in the Scriptures.

1. We find our identity in the fact that God created us uniquely in His image.

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness'...27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:26-27)

On the fifth day of Creation Week (Genesis 1), God created living things that would exist in the water (sea creatures) and in the air (birds). On the sixth day, He created livestock, creeping things, and beasts that would live on land. The water, air, and land animals were different from each other, but they shared a quality of life that would be different from plants, which were designed to be food. Then God paused. He was now going to create a unique being that would bear His image and be in His likeness. Genesis 2:7 tells us that God took dirt He created on the first day and sculpted a unique body—the only body like it God ever made—and breathed life into it. Thus, human beings are distinct from and superior to all other life forms that God created.

In Genesis 1:26-27, notice that the words "image" (which means "a representative form of another form") and "likeness" (a stronger word meaning "copy") are used exclusively of humans. No other creature—plants, animals, or angels—are spoken of as having the image or likeness of God. When God formed Adam from the dirt (Gen.2:7) and later made the body of Eve (Gen.2:21-22), the Bible is telling us that humans are unique and superior among all the rest of creation.

Discuss: In what sense does understanding our identity begin with first understanding who God is?

Discuss: What conclusions can you draw about yourself and your identity from the fact that you are created in the image of God?

2. We find our identity in what God says about us.

It has been said that we tend to base our view of ourselves on what the most important person in our lives says about us. Therefore, it is critical that we make God the most important Person in our lives—that way we can base our view of ourselves on what God says is true, and not on the incomplete, imperfect, and ever-changing impressions others have of us, or on lies the devil tells us about ourselves.

One of the most encouraging passages of Scripture that informs us what God thinks about us is Ephesians 1:3-7:

- **You are chosen:** “Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world...” (Eph.1:4). You are privileged to be God’s choice to bear His name, represent His cause, and share in Christ’s inheritance for eternity!

Discuss: How does the fact that you are chosen by God affect your identity?

- **You are accepted:** “He has blessed [accepted] us in the Beloved” (Eph.1:6). The English word “blessed” which means “accepted” (v.6) is a specialized form of the Greek word most often translated “grace.” This means you are graced by God who purchased you through His blood (Eph.1:7) and has set boundaries around your life to purify you unto himself as a special one, zealous of good works (Titus 2:14).

Discuss: How does the fact that you are accepted in Christ affect your identity?

- **You are forgiven:** “In him we have the forgiveness of our trespasses” (Eph.1:7). Your sins are covered (Ps.32:1), cast behind God’s back (Is.38:17), removed “as far as the east is from the west” (Ps.103:12), to be remembered no more (Jer.31:34). God has cleansed you from all unrighteousness (1Jn.1:9).

Discuss: How does the fact that you are forgiven in Christ affect your identity?

We find our identity in the fact that God is for us, always working for our good.

Romans 8:31 says, “What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?” When we know that God is for us, we have nothing to fear. To say that God is for us is to say that God is constantly working on our behalf and for our good (Rom.8:28). Further, God is unchanging and reliable, “the same yesterday, today and forever” (Heb.13:8). Finding your identity in God means you will never be let down since He has proven over and over again to be trustworthy.

Discuss: How does the fact that God is always for you affect your identity?

For Further Study:

Free online commentary of the Book of Psalm at www.enduringword.com
“How Should We Live in Our Identity in Christ?” at www.gotquestions.org

Love Thy Body by Nancy Pearcey