

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

THE IMPORTANCE OF IDENTITY



Think of your identity. Who are you? What is your identity? The answer to this is dependent on how we are using the word. For instance, a common occurrence in our world today is “identity theft.” This is when someone gets your important personal information and uses that information to be able to access your credit and bank accounts. Although this is one use of the word identity, it does not answer the big question of who you are and what your true identity is. We all are looking for meaning in our lives and wondering what we are here for. We wonder why we are the way we are and how that came to be. We are longing to understand who we really are at our core.

Our culture is working very hard at answering this question. As a culture we feel we have progressed in our understanding of identity and in an effort to bring some peace and security to people, we have made one's identity to be whatever they think it is. We see this in gender identity. Our culture is moving to a place where one's gender is what one desires it to be rather than the biological reality of the gender they were born with. This is the epitome of humans attempting to make themselves the definer of identity. Gender is not the only place where this occurs. We tell children from a young age that they can be whatever they want to be without looking at the reality of the fact that they have been born with certain skills and personalities which play a big role in what they will do in life and what they will find fulfilling and satisfying. We encourage people to be the “best version of themselves.” But how does a person know what the best version of themselves is if they don't know what they were created for?

In our attempts to help people find their identity, we have actually further confused the issue. The only way a person will find their true identity is to come to terms with how their creator formed them and for what purpose He created them. It is God that made us and He did so with a plan. Look at what He says about how He created us in the following passage:

For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them. (Psalm 139:13-16)

There is so much in this passage that declares the truth of who we are, where we came from, how we were created, and why we were created.

- What does this passage tell us about how we were created?
- What does it tell us about what we were created for?
- What does it mean to you that God fashioned all your days before any of them existed?

This is telling us that God formed each of us with a plan in mind. He created our personality, our skills, abilities, and even our weakness, all with a purpose and plan.

- How does the above statement help us to understand our true identity?
- How does this passage challenge the current thinking of our culture and its attempts to define one's identity?

As a human being we will never truly understand our identity until we understand and embrace our identity from God's perspective. This means we will not find peace nor true fulfillment until we embrace and walk in God's perfect plan for our lives. The good news is that God has given us so much about our true identity in the Bible. He tells us how He looks at us and what His thoughts are for us. If we were to give time to reading and meditating on the truth of who we are in God's eyes, it would lead us to a much deeper understanding of who we truly are. Below are several passages that contain truths about our identity from God's perspective, His thoughts regarding us, and His plans for us. You will be blessed if you spend time looking at them and thinking about them. Above all this, I encourage you to pray. Ask God to reveal your God given identity. Ask Him to make it real to you and help you to grow in your understanding of that identity. I believe you will find this journey in seeking your God given identity and purpose one of the most rewarding and fulfilling things you could do in your life.

Psalm 139
Psalm 119:73
Proverbs 19:21
Ephesians 2:10
1 John 3:1-3

Genesis 1:26-28,31
Ephesians 3:9-10
Revelation 4:11
Colossians 1:16-17
Titus 2:14

Jeremiah 29:11
Isaiah 40:25-31
Isaiah 44:24-26
Isaiah 43