

## Your Identity in Christ 1

### What Is Your Identity?

- Wikipedia = “the qualities, beliefs, personality, looks and/or expressions that make a person or group”
- 1) How you view yourself (what makes “you” you)
- 2) A sense of your worth or value

### Identity Formation Process

- Traditional / Non-Western
- Western

### There are 3 Big Problems with How We Find Our Identity

- Your worth is based on your performance
  - Quote: Author Benjamin Nugent (from a NY Times essay) – “When good writing was my only goal in life, I made the quality of my work the measure of my worth.”
- You’re under a lot of pressure
  - Quote: Madonna (from Vogue interview) – “My drive in life is from the fear of being mediocre. That’s always pushing me. I push past one spell of it, and I discover myself as a special human being. But then I feel I’m still mediocre and uninteresting unless I do something else, because even though I’ve become somebody, I still have to prove that I’m somebody. My struggle has never ended, and it probably never will.”
  - Quote: Harold M. Abrahams (in Chariots of Fire) – “And now in one hour's time, I will be out there again. I will raise my eyes and look down that corridor; 4 feet wide, with 10 lonely seconds to justify my existence. But will I?”
  - Quote: Cultural Anthropologist Ernest Becker – “What is it we want when we elevate the love partner to this position? We want to be rid of our faults. We want to be justified. We want to get rid of our feeling of nothingness. We want to know our existence has not been in vain. We want redemption from our love partner, nothing else. Needless to say, no human being can give you this.”
  - John 10:1-3 – 1 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.
- You can’t change

### Jesus Gives Us A New Identity

- Isaiah 62:1-5 – 1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. 2 The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. 3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. 4 You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. 5 For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.
- Revelation 2:17 – He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.

### What is Your New Identity?

- 1) Who are you? You are what God names you: His sheep, a child of God, adopted, forgiven, redeemed, loved, the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, sons of Abraham, etc.
- 2) What is your worth? Your worth is based on the infinitely high price God paid for you
  - 1 Peter 1:18-19 - 18 ...you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

#### You Can Change

- 2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.