

“IDENTITY” - Where does yours come from?

To be Understood:

- Why is it so important?
 - I am right!
 - I need you to hear me.
 - I need you to think well of me.

To be Understanding:

- Why is it so important?
 - I want to hear you.
 - I desire truth.
 - I care about the relationship

A story of hating to be “misunderstood”

- The “Scarlet D” – Divorced
- Other “Scarlet Letters”

Identity

- Where does your come from?
 - Accomplishments
 - Your Past
 - Keeping up with “the Joneses”
- What is the danger?
 - It is most typically based on what others think of you
 - We then make them G O D in our lives

Who Paul was:

Galatians 1: 13 - 14

13 For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. 14 And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers.

I Timothy 1: 12 - 15

12 I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, 13 though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, 14 and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

I Corinthians 15: 9

For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

Ephesians 3: 8

To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

Who we are:

Colossians 1: 13 - 14

13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Galatians 2: 20

20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me

Colossians 3: 12 - 13

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

I John 4: 9 - 11

9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

The Prodigal Son

Luke 15: 17 - 24

17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."' 20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. 23 And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

Going forward, what "identity" do you think this son lived out of?

In arrogance, thinking he can do whatever he wants

In shame, consumed with how everyone sees him

In humility, overwhelmed by his father's love for him