

Identity

5 SESSIONS

**NEXT
LEVEL**  **ONLINE**

OZARK CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Identity

Session 1: Created in the Image of God

Kevin Greer

Who am I? This is one of the most common questions that teenagers ask themselves.

Two Views:

1. First View: **You were made in the Image of God** (Gen. 1).
 - The creation of man is different from any previous creation. “This is very good.” The creation became much more personal because we have been made in the image of God.
 - People don’t realize the value and worth of humankind.
2. Second View: **You are a product of chance.**
 - Value only comes from what you do or how you succeed.
 - We have merely evolved over time.
 - Everything came from nothing (Charles Darwin).
 - This is a theory that’s been taught as the only plausible explanation (which have so many holes in said theory).

One view values life and one view does not.

There are 1 of 2 opinions:

1. You are more or less, God’s.
2. We’re basically animals so we can do whatever we want whenever we want.

When you choose to ignore God, you don’t have a lot of options.

The image of God is something we are.

A christian worldview is going to have a higher view of life than any other religious or philosophical view there is.

What we understand about the origin of life is incredibly personal, and that determines your identity.

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Session 2: Uniquely Created by God Matthew McBirth

The image of God is diverse!

Three Different Views on our Identity

1. Biblical View

- We are made in the image of God.
- We are worthy of grace.
- We should be transformed to look more like Christ. "Little Christs."

2. Societal View

- We live in a world that loves to categorize characteristics.
- Labels that are given: race, ethnicity, geography, gender, socio-economic class, religion, clique that you are with.

3. Unique Self

- This is where we choose what we value most about the labels that are given to us by society.

These three different parts of our identity are always there in our life, but we decide which is more important.

God wants us to look at our uniqueness:

- Acts 13 - racial, ethnicity, socio-economic status
- Rev. 7 - John does not just say that he saw a multitude of people worshiping God, but he saw a multitude of people from different nations, tribes and languages.

You see and hear God differently and help those around you to see him more fully.

God made you who you are the way you are for a certain reason. You reveal God to those around you in a different way than they ever could because God made you the way He wanted you to be. This is why being unified is such a big deal, because when a diverse group of Christ believers come together, Jesus is seen more clearly.

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Session 3: Security in Knowing You Are Loved by God

Sara Hill

What is security? Security is freedom from fear.

- There are 365 times in the Bible that God tells us not to fear or be afraid; He knew we would be afraid of things, but that we don't have to live in that fear.

Living in Fear:

- Fear can make you feel rejected, guilty, like a failure, empty, alone...
- We are all afraid of something; so what are you afraid of?
- There is no fear in love (1 John 4).

We are all seeking purpose and value; to know our purpose and value we have to put our eyes back on God.

If we know who we are, then we don't have to work so hard for the love and approval of others, because we already have God's love and approval.

Living in Love:

- Love shows us we are loved, God knit us together in our mother's womb, we are known, Christ died for us to set us free, we are never alone, we are unique, He has a plan for us, He knows the way... this will give us life and purpose and peace.

What do you believe about your security? What you believe changes the way you think and act.

Finding our identity in anything other than Jesus is unsatisfying.

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Session 4: Understanding Sexual Identity

Doug Aldridge

Biblical Worldview

- Our identity in Christ affects our actions, which affects our feelings.

Secular Worldview

- Our feelings affect our actions, which affects our identity.

We look at the Biblical Worldview through the lens of 1 Thessalonians.

- Paul wrote this letter in 51 AD.
- Paul reminds us that our identity is found in Christ and nothing else.
- Our choice of authority determines the nature of our religion (tradition, experience, cultural accommodation).
- The Greco-Roman culture was very promiscuous; they had a secular worldview of sexual identity.
- Paul makes it clear that any sexual act outside of heterosexual marriage doesn't honor God.
- The church can come across as anti-sex, which isn't true.
- Sex is holy; sex was God's idea, and He has set parameters in marriage to honor it.
- Sex outside his will does not honor people.

The whole call of the Gospel is don't act the way we were born.

Christian marriage is meant to be a reflection of the image of God.

The key element of a christian sexual ethic is other centered, not self centered.

What drives our actions is our identity in Christ, not our feelings.

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Session 5: Saved From Our Brokenness

Kevin Greer

Who are you?

1. You are loved by God.
2. You are created by God.
3. You are a sinner in need of a Savior.

God gave you the ability to choose what path you want to take - free will.

Act 1: God created us and loved us.

Act 2: We chose to rebel.

Act 3: He chose to save us from our brokenness.

Two boxes: Righteous and Sinner - what box would you put yourself in?

Our new identity changes not only how we see ourselves, but how we see others.

Challenge: See other people as broken in need of a Savior. See other people as those who are loved by God.

We get to help other people understand who they are in Jesus, help them see themselves as God sees them.

If someone knows who they are, you don't have to spend a whole lot of time telling them what to do.