

Identity, Function, and Influence (Part 1)

I. Introduction

- Confusion about identity
- Sources of our "Fake ID's"
 - What we do
 - What we have
 - What others say
 - Our experiences
- Without God → false identity

II. Core Truth

- Everyone has a TRUE identity
- Shaped by either Design (God) or Default (World)
- Our Identity:
 - dictates our Function which impacts our Influence
 - Impacts values, desires, beliefs, relationships, money, purpose
- Life events (good/bad) shape how we see ourselves
- **Question 1: Where am I receiving my identity?**

III. Jesus' As The Example

- Born into humble, difficult circumstances
- Could have embraced rejection/outcast identity
- Instead, declared who He was (Luke 2:49)
 - John 6:35 – "I am the bread of life" → fed 5,000
 - John 10:11 – "I am the good shepherd" → led His people
 - John 11:25 – "I am the resurrection" → raised the dead
- Jesus' identity dictated His functionality
- Who does God Say We are?
- **Question 2: Will I embrace God's identity or let the world define us?**

V. Biblical Examples of Identity Being Formed

1. Adam & Eve (Gen 3:1–11)
 - Satan's tactic: temptation + condemnation → false identity
 - False Identity Leads to shame, guilt, fear
 - God's BIG question: "Who told you?"
 - **Question 3: What am I believing about my Identity that God never said?**

2. Gideon (Judges 6:11–12, 34)
 - Saw himself as weak/unworthy
 - God: calls him a “Valiant warrior” even while he’s still hiding in a wine press
 - When Gideon believed he was who God said → God’s Spirit clothed him with power!
3. Isaiah (Isaiah 6:5–8)
 - Declared “I am a man of unclean lips”
 - God purified and commissioned him
 - Isaiah’s VOICE was his strength and calling
 - Satan attacks our strengths, not weaknesses to implant a false ID

VII. Conclusion

- God has given you a TRUE identity = gift to the Body of Christ
- Living in our True Identity brings power, joy, fulfillment, and purpose!
- **LifeGroup Questions**
 1. Where am I tempted to receiving my identity other than God? Why is that so tempting to do?
 2. What lies am I believing that God never said? (Who told you that?!)
 3. Who does God say I am? How can I discover my identity in community?
 4. How do I embrace and live out my God Given identity everyday?