

Identity = Sense of self and a sense of worth

Sense of self - a core a durable core that you identify as yourself - roles you play, hats you wear in so many different places and circumstances - what is the core that identifies you as you in everyone of those situations -

Sense of worth - what makes you feel significant - confident of your value

A matter of identity - Paul's former identity was drawn from his heritage and his ability to perform well, keep the rules, and a champion a hero of Judaism.

Phil 3:3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, 4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

Modern very American identity = Disney - *Identity is not realized, as in traditional societies, by sublimating our individual desires for the good of our family and people. Instead we become ourselves only by asserting our individual desires against society, by expressing our feelings and fulfilling our dreams regardless of what anyone says.* - Tim Keller

Moana (much in the tune of its predecessor, Frozen) teaches kids that they must look within to find their true identity and purpose—even if people tell them not to, even if they're "breaking the rules," as Frozen's Elsa so proudly declares. This theme weaves its way through much modern children and young adult media—its sitcoms and cartoons, its novels and comic books, and, of course, its movies. - Jaquelle Crowe

The Gospel challenges those sort of identities We are offered a new identity My old self has been crucified with Christ If that is true then our old identities are irrelevant!

1. **Incoherent** - they contradict with one another - conflicting loves - wants make no sense, they don't harmony - want and don't want at the same time
2. **Unstable** - look on the inside and you will see that it is always changing. Five men same body - married to a woman - as you get older get better - always a fool, always and idiot - vows
3. **Illusionary** - these feelings tell me who I am - you can't do that - because you have different conflicting feelings - choose identity based on feeling - it will be based on what you choose. Warrior - aggression - old days that's me - i like that - I will express that. Also looks inside and sees same sex attraction - squash that idea ---- today - squash the aggression - and express the same sex attraction ---- warrior is the shame and honor culture - culture is influencing the feeling you will choose - you end up being what your culture wants - someone is going to tell you how to sift through what is going on in your heart.
4. **Crushing** - status anxiety - modern culture - you need to have a dream and then you need to pursue it - you have to achieve your own identity - personal performance justifies your existence - quality of work becomes the measurement of my worth - when you make anything your identity - those things stop being good things and start to crush you - to feel sane you have to look at all your work as great - and can't listen to criticism

5. **Excluding** - CS Lewis - we aren't proud of money or intelligence - we are proud having more, or being smarter, proud of being better - any identity that is achieved rather than received, has to be excluding - so you can feel good about yourself

Paul in a confrontation with Peter, regarding his behavior when those of the circumcision came from James - Peter and Barnabas would eat with the gentiles anymore. Old identity - blurry face

Gal 2:20 - "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Romans 6:5 Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. 6 We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. 7 For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. 8 And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him.

1Pe 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

John 3:8 "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

It is no longer I who live (identity issue) but Christ who lives in me We are now identified with Christ and His life

"I am crucified with Christ." **Verse 20 is God's view of me.** He treats me as if I had died the same death Christ has died and lived the same life Christ has lived. **That's how you start to live the rest of your life.**

The minute I believe I am treated as if I have died like Jesus died and I'm treated as if I have lived as perfect a life as Jesus lived. justified

What is true of Him is true of us!!! - The life He lived—the death He died—His position before the Father - God loves you as much as He loves His son!!

Jhn 17:23 "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

His life is at work in us (Christ... lives in me) Transforming us!

This deals with a common objection to the gospel and the idea of being justified apart from works The objection would be: If God justifies and accepts [through faith in Christ] anybody with any sort of behavior then why wouldn't we just go on doing whatever we want?

Doesn't the gospel and the doctrine of justification by faith encourage sin??

No. And here is why: Justification is not a legal fiction, in which a person's status is changed, while his or her character is untouched! Identity changes result in transformation

Justification happens when we are united with Christ—and someone who is united to Christ is never the same person again! They are changed! New identity - new sense of self and worth - received not achieved

It is not only that our standing before God changes; but we ourselves are radically and permanently changed!
New creations with new natures

2Co 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

To talk about just going on sinning or sinning even more is unthinkable Because we actually think, and feel and desire differently now - Christ alive in us

Christ now lives in us - And living in us he now gives us new desires for God and living like God Even when we do sin—we are still accepted, right with, and loved by God because of Jesus

And that very fact, that we are still loved and accepted changes us even more and causes us to want to respond in loving obedience!

The demand to keep the rules can never create lasting obedience - Only the truth that we are so deeply loved and wholly accepted even though we have not kept the rules creates a lasting desire and ability to obey

Christians who sin too much are not those that believe the Gospel of God's free grace too much—rather, they believe it too little!

God's law shows us what an obedient life looks like but ONLY the gospel can produce spontaneous obedience from a heart full of gratitude.

Our new identity and approach to life are driven by this: (Verse 20c) So, I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God [as opposed to myself], who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Jhn 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Everything we do now in life is done with this thought in mind: The Son of God... loved me and gave Himself for me. This becomes our life and identity!

When God looks at me he sees an absolute beauty, when I get out there I'm no longer just trying to be good. I'm remembering who I am in Christ.

I now live my life knowing the most glorious Person in the universe thought it worthwhile to die for me, that he was willing to lose the universe rather than lose me.

Saint Augustine, after he became a Christian ... He was pretty much a sex addict BC. He met an old girlfriend in the street.

She came up and said, "Augustine, how are you?" He said, "Fine. Thank you very much. It's good to see you." He was very cordial, but then he walked away. None of the kind of slobbering she used to remember. As he walked away, she wondered, "Maybe he actually mistook me for somebody." She says, "Augustine, it is I." He turned to her and said, "Yes, I know, but it is not I."

Galatians 6:14 As for me, may I never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of that cross, my interest in this world has been crucified, and the world's interest in me has also died.

He refused to boast about anything other than the cross Let's drill down on the word and concept of boasting

The KJV uses the word 'glory' instead of boast. "God forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ..."

"It means to boast in, glory in, trust in, rejoice in, revel in, live for. The object of our boast or 'glory' fills our horizons, engrosses our attention, and absorbs our time and energy. In a word, our 'glory' is our obsession."
—John Stott

What do you boast in? If something great happens to you, if you get the job of your dreams, if you get a letter from somebody who says, "You are the very best I've ever seen at what you do," if you get some kind of compliment or some kind of award or some kind of accomplishment, **you boast in it.**

Now that doesn't mean you brag about it to other people. There's nothing people hate more than braggarts.

But you still boast. You boast in your heart, because what you boast in is what gives you meaning, value, worth, significance, purpose. This is what strengthens my soul. A real Christian doesn't just believe in the cross in a general way. A real Christian doesn't just enjoy the cross or even just think it's inspiring. **A Christian boasts in the cross.**

Paul's obsession the sole source of his own meaning, was the cross. The cross is the fountain of everything he is, everything he has become, and everything he hopes for. It's the center of his universe. It's the thing he pours over and and thinks over, that makes it possible for him to do anything and to face anybody or anything.

It's a better identity because - if you boast in anything else, if you make anything else the thing you boast in, the thing that gives you power, the thing that gives you hope, and the thing that gives you confidence, if you boast in anything else, your soul is vulnerable and in bondage.

Paul said no more obsessing about what people thought about him. No more obsessing for the approval

Because of the Cross, he had the approval of God and knew that God only thought about Him through the lens of Christ's work on the Cross

When we begin to understand the Gospel we see ourselves as dead (crucified) to the world and the world as dead (crucified to us)

"Previously we were desperately anxious to be in favor with the world. But now that we have seen ourselves as sinners and Christ crucified as our sin-bearer, we do not care what the world thinks or says of us or does to us. 'The world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.'" —John Stott

What kind of identity do we need. Not a created identity, but a gifted one. Achieved not received

You can't bless yourself and value yourself, it must come from another, to be meaningful..

You need the love and approval and esteem of someone you esteem for it to be of any real value to you.

It needs to be from someone who will never fail you, or let you down - because then your value plummets - self-worth plummets - they can't be fickle - got to be a person who you esteem enormously -

Jesus is the Good Shepherd - the praise of the praiseworthy is above rewards - only if you have the esteem of someone you esteem will you have self-esteem - to know that the lord of the universe loves you - stability -

loved by God - not based on performance - don't look down on people - adopted into the family - new people - united to Christ - moved from darkness to light - kingdom of Jesus

Jesus died for you - identity is like a deck of cards - but christianity wasn't at the top - male approval - what gets Jesus to the top of the deck - **is not achieved - received.**

Believe he died for you - it has to go to your imagination - underlying principle core of you life - when you are struggling with what the culture/world is saying what your identity should be - you have to know how to be able to get Jesus to the top of the deck - pull your your identity in Christ and get it to the top.- done through your imagination -

Get Jesus Christ down to a naming level in your heart. - He knows my name, calls me by name...