

I. ME

- A. Welcome/Online
- B. So, what about...
- C. Part 5- Enough questions...
 1. Am I enough? Etc.
- D. Often has to do with identity... who you see yourself as...
- E. **Our identity shapes our behavior**
 1. Worry
 2. Students- "You're a bad/good kid." They prove you right.
 3. Self-image problems...
 4. How you treat others often depends on how you view yourself
 5. Better life? Who do you see yourself as?
 6. **Our behavior determines the quality of our life.**

II. WE

- A. Who are you?
 1. I'm a "job"- That's what you do to make money (what if you lost your job... who are you?)
 2. I'm a husband/wife- That's who you married (what if that went away?)
 3. I'm the parent/kid of...-
 4. Nationality/Political Party
 5. Male/Female/other
- B. If all of that external were stripped away... who would you be?
 1. Why we have identity crises... kids leave/divorce/death/moving/etc.
- C. So who are you?
 1. What can you anchor your identity too?

2. Something that doesn't change with circumstances... that isn't dependent on external forces?

D. Not-Xians

1. Show you how you can have that... what really makes Xianity different

E. Xians- You have it... realize/remember it. Rely on it. **Be You**

F. Paul tells us in Colossians

1. Background

G. Where can we find an identity that is true and solid and life-giving?

H. Hint: It's found in a person... Jesus

I. What we'll discover is... **Knowing whose you are frees you to be who you are.**

III. **GOD (Colossians 3:1-4:1)**

A. v. 1-4

1. **If you are IN CHRIST your identity has been utterly and irreversibly changed.**
2. **2 Kingdoms** (2 Circles on white board)
 - a. Earthly/Darkness v. Heaven... at war
 - b. All born imprisoned in kingdom of darkness...
 - c. Jesus died to take the punishment and set you free
 - d. That citizen of darkness dies and is reborn as a Citizen of Heaven and Child of the King (God)
3. **Hidden with Christ**- Secure/Safe
4. Your old self is dead. Your new self (who you were always meant to) is found in Jesus.

5. Identity has changed from sinner to Child of God sharing his glory.

6. Caterpillar/Butterfly

7. Paul says... your identity has changed so act and think like it...

a. **Set you hearts and minds**- Seek

B. v. 5-7

1. "Put to death"... **extreme**

2. Empowered by the Spirit of God living in you...

3. You are set free from the kingdom of darkness.

a. To choose to continue to act this way is like cultural appropriation.

4. **Idolatry**- Seeking ultimate satisfaction in things

5. Bad b/c it hurts/uses people

6. "**Wrath of God**"

a. Just King/Good Father will destroy anything that harms his citizens/children.

7. But that's not you anymore... **V. 7**- "You used to walk"

a. **Walk**- Continual lifestyle... what defined your identity

b. **Caterpillar**

c. **You are not your past.**

C. V. 8-10

1. "Renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator"

a. **Gen. 1:27**

2. **Your primary identity** (xian or not) **is an image bearer of God.**

a. You have infinite worth.

b. You have a purpose

c. To **reflect** to the world the personality of God

d. Love, mercy, beauty, truth

3. Sin mars and attempts to destroy the image... chaining you, not allowing you to accurately reflect.

4. Broken mirror tends to reflect everything else except what you want to see.

a. Never a concise/solid/clear image... always changing

5. But identifying with Jesus in his death... allowing yourself to be rescued from the earthly kingdom... frees you to be who you were originally created to be...remakes the mirror to reflect more and more clearly your true identity

6. **If you are in Christ you are being remade into who you were always meant to be...** in the image of God

7. Not by trying to be really good and following all the rules... but allowing the Holy Spirit to renew/transform you...

a. **Gal 5:22-23**

D. V. 11

1. And forget about race, nationality, family religion, or economic level... none of those define you.

2. **No earthly person/place/thing/or idea can give you a true identity...**

3. **True identity is in Jesus and it eclipses everything else.**

4. **Paul**- So stop acting like a broken mirror trying to reflect and identify with pointless/hurtful things... this is what reflecting the image of God looks like...

E. V. 12-16

1. Sounds terrible right?

2. This is the result of being IN CHRIST, of having your identity rooted in Jesus.
3. **Finding your identity in the God of love allows you to live a life shaped by love.**

F. V. 17

1. A new identity creates a new purpose.

2. And it affects every aspect of your life...
3. Instead of using people for your own satisfaction, you are free to be for them... b/c Jesus is for them.

G. V. 18-4:1- A life reflecting the love of God

1. **Submission-** Giving all of me for what benefits you the most.

H. Summary

1. Trying to find your identity in anything other than your Creator will only lead to brokenness and pain.
2. Always stay a caterpillar/broken mirror
3. **Jesus is enough for a new Identity.**

4. Knowing whose you are allows you to be who you are.

- a. Liz- "I do like you."

5. Allow your new identity to shape your behavior.

- a. Be who you were created to be. A mirror of God's love and mercy.

IV. YOU- Who are you?

A. Are you in Christ?

1. Allow yourself to be continually renewed into your true identity... a reflection of God to the world.
2. Starts with those closest to you.
3. "What am I reflecting?"
4. Ask for the fruit of the spirit to reflect back...
 - a. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

B. Not-Xian...

1. Who are you?
2. Trying to define yourself using external things?
3. You were created in the image of God.
4. Sin broke it
5. We try to put stickers on the broken mirror
 - a. Do good things, be successful, family, church...
 - b. Doesn't fix the real issue... the mirror is still broken
6. The only thing that can fully restore that image is your Heavenly Father.
7. Give him your broken mirror (**admit and repent**) and he will give you a new one... and will continually make it clearer and clearer.
8. So you can be who you were always meant to be... a life reflecting the love of God.
9. Opportunity to accept

V. WE

- A. Goal of this church to be a tool God uses to move as many people as possible from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of heaven.
- B. To show people how to reclaim their true identity.
- C. Families/Neighborhoods
- D. Salem (Area) has the potential to change the world...
- E. ...And God wants to use you to change Salem (Area).
- F. Simply by you being who you truly are...

G. Be you. Be in Christ.