

THE CRISIS OF IDENTITY // Psalm 139:13-16

Message from Pastor Jimmy Newkirk

Although this passage is often used to support the sanctity of life, it also has much to say on the issue of identity. Our culture is full of people searching for identity. They want to express themselves according to their own rules and determine their own identity. However, attempting to understand our identity outside of the Bible is futile.

To understand our identity, we must understand God's identity. In the psalm, we see God's omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence, and also a response to these attributes.

Main point: your identity is secure because God planned, created, and purposed you.

1. God's Plan

God is perfect and holy. He makes no mistakes—and though humanity is marred by sin, he made no mistakes when he created you.

God created you as an acquired possession, so that your identity would be rooted in him. He is like the north star, and we are either headed toward him or away from him.

God didn't simply create, he planned, and because it was his plan, it was also for his purpose.

2. God's Creation

We were created in God's image. Why? To radiate and reflect his glory. We do not have all the same qualities he has—his knowledge is too high and wondrous. We are limited, but we have the capacity to mirror many attributes of God.

3. God's Purpose

Everything in nature lives according to the way God has created it, for the glory of God. We were created to praise God. We were created to be sent on mission, like arrows from a quiver. We all have different roles in life as a spouse, parent, worker, servant of the church. While these may be good, none of them are the true source of who we are.

Ultimately, it all comes down to Jesus. Christ is the author of creation and everything exists to give him glory.

People are searching for identity—they will only find it in God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Is our sense of our own identity rooted in God? How can we center our sense of who we are around him?
2. Our lives reveal our sense of purpose. Do we live to praise and serve God on mission?
3. How can we engage a culture that finds its identity in things of the flesh, rather than in God? How can we help point to a truer sense of identity?