

How do you Identify?

1. Intro-
 - a. Bellringer
 - b. Taking on identities for ourselves that do not match our identity in Christ
2. Three types of identities:
 - a. Identities that we did not choose: Mary Magdalene
 - i. The chosen
 - ii. Luke 8:1-2: soon afterward Jesus began a tour of the nearby towns and villages, preaching and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom of God. He took his twelve disciples with him along with some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases. Among them were Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons.
 - iii. Matthew 12: 43-45a When an unclean spirit comes out of a person, it roams through waterless places looking for rest, but doesn't find any. Then it says, "I'll go back to my house that I came from." Returning, it finds the house vacant, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and settle there. As a result, that person's last condition is worse than the first."
 - iv. Identities that we did not choose but that feel crushing
 - b. Identity of life stage: Sarah
 - i. Genesis 18:12 "How could a worn-out woman like me enjoy such a pleasure, especially when my master-my husband- is also so old?"
 - ii. Life stages that can define how we see ourselves
 - c. Identity of choices: Rahab
 - i. Hebrews 12:1 throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.
3. How does the Bible identify you?
 - a. John 1:11-13 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.
 - b. Colossians 2:9-10 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.
 - c. Romans 6:6-7 **6** For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,^[a] that we should no longer be slaves to sin— **7** because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.
 - d. 1 Peter 2:9-10 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **10** Once you were not a people, but

now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- e. 1 John 3:1-2 **3** See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **2** Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears,[a] we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.
 - f. Romans 8: 31-37 **31** What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32** He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? **33** Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. **34** Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. **35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? **36** As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”**37** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
 - g. Ephesians 5:8 **8** For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.
4. How do we shift our own identity to match how God sees us and how does that impact those around us? How do we step into the promises and our identity in Christ?
- a. Dealing with sin and helping others
 - b. Looking to scripture for examples of similar life stages
 - c. Getting help and looking to Christ for identities we can't shake on our own
 - d. Explain how God used each of the three women despite the identities they had assumed
 - e. Ephesians 3:15-19 I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And you may have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.”
 - f. Rest in His identity of you today