

Course Title: AN IDENTITY CRISIS ~ LESSON 1

Goal of This Lesson: Understand the reasons how we are identified and how we identify ourselves.

Note: This lesson contains important principles, especially for those who struggle with their spiritual identity. To learn is to know, which leads you to grow.

Reading Assignment: 1Co 13:11-12 NLT

When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

Your Identification

Who are you and what defines you? What is your identity? That's a question many people struggle to answer.

Too often, people base their identities on what they do (from their jobs to their roles in relationships), defining themselves by those pursuits. But by doing so, they significantly limit their lives. The truth is that all people can find their identity in Christ.

This crisis permeates even the deepest of ranks in Christianity.

Definition of Identity Crisis

1. Personal psychosocial conflict especially in adolescence that involves confusion about one's social role and often a sense of loss of continuity to one's personality
2. A state of confusion in an institution or organization regarding its nature or direction

If you're a Christian, your identity encompasses all the abundance of being a beloved Child of God. Here's how you can start living your life fully in Christ, keeping in mind that your identity is found in Christ.

Reading Assignment: Isa 5:13 ESV

Therefore my people go into exile for lack of knowledge; their honored men go hungry, and their multitude is parched with thirst.

The prophet was referring from the prestigious down to the popper. From the wealthy to the poor. From the leaders to the congregation.

There was a straying away from the Word of God which begin to cause an identity crisis. If a person don't have food for several days, they will survive, but they will have pain, emotion, distress, anguish, and when the body is weakened even more, its vision and focus becomes blurry.

Reading Assignments: Read the Following Passages

(Mat 4:4 NIV) Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

(Hos 4:6 ESV) My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

This is not some childish, verbal tug of war between us and the Lord saying: "Forget you then, you don't care about me and what I'm telling you, I'm never going to even think about your kids ever again"!

The Lord is not taking vengeance to punish us. He is simply telling us that if we refuse to learn and know who we're supposed to be in Him, then we cannot be allowed to be in a position of leadership, because what we do and how we act, affects our family too.

When we lose sight and focus on the Lord, we:

- Lose trust and gain doubt
- Lose faith and gain fear
- Lose hope and gain bitterness
- Lose love and gain hate

When the Lord said that he rejected them, there is a simple explanation. Our relationship is a correlation to the following illustration:



With every magnet, there's a positive and negative side. When the two magnets are both turned to the negative side, they repel each other, when you turn one of the magnets to the positive, then it becomes attracted to it with a great force and connects.

In every instance, we should push away our negative attitudes, and be attracted to the positive nature of God's Word. It's time to get connected!

Understanding The Crisis

When lose sight of our mission and focus on the things of God, we will become disinterested, discontent, and then become disconnected.

Things began to transpire, such as, but not limited to the following things:

- Problems with finances
- Problems with Children
- Problems with Spouses
- Problems with jobs/careers
- Problems with churches
- Problems with church leaders
- Problems with drugs
- Problems with gambling
- Problems with pornography
- Problems with infidelity
- Problems galore

This world has no shortage of problems. I'm sure you can find a problem anywhere in life and you can feel sorry for yourself because of it.

These problems didn't sneak up on anybody but began to grow like a tumor and possibly develop into cancer of the soul.

These things seemingly crept in unawares, and have become the primary focus of our energy, time, blame, and excuse why we do what we do.

God knows how I am. God knows what I'm like. The excuse is not to change.

When we become calloused, cold and indifferent, we can walk into the presence of Almighty God and leave a powerful service the same way we came. Everything just becomes routine, tradition, and lip service.

Reading Assignment: Isa 29:13 ESV

And the Lord said: "Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men,

This means that when a person's relationship with the Lord is not on a personal level, but an acquaintance only, this will make our hearts hollow and our words empty.

Jesus Explains Identity

Reading Assignment: Mat 23:27-28 ESV

²⁷ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸ So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

In other words, they were facing a major identity crisis.

The reason that we become born again of the water and spirit, is to change our identity:

Reading Assignment: 2Co 5:17 NKJV

Therefore, if anyone (is) in Christ, (he is) a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

This is quite a transformation and a change of identity.

Reading Assignment: Ephesians 4:17-24 NIV

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

A Clear Identity

There is a clear indication of identity that is recognized here. Let's turn to the scriptures to help us get a better image of what the Lord has identified for his people.

Once we reset our focus, and look to the Living Word, our spiritual vision begins to clear up then we will see as the Lord wants us to see.

Reading Assignments: Read the Following Passages

(John 1:1-14 NKJV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name (was) John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but (was sent) to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

- From the beginning of time, the Lord has clearly stated what the identity of his people is.

(Gen 1:27 NKJV) So God created man in His (own) image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

(1Co 12:27 NLT) All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.

There is no identity crisis from the Lord. This identity crisis is on our part.

You see, the further away we move from our identity in Christ, we have a spiritual crisis that develops.

A conflict arises that involves confusion about one's spiritual role and often a sense of loss of continuity to one's standing in the Kingdom and alienation sets in creating a state of confusion of where we stand. You feel out of place and unwelcomed.

With all of this conflict, it becomes even more complicated with a great void that needs to be filled, so carnality that usually sets in.

From one of the earliest accounts of an identity crisis, we find Cain and the Lord having an eye-opening conversation.

Reading Assignment: Gen 4:6-7 NLT

6 "Why are you so angry?" the LORD asked Cain. "Why do you look so dejected?

7 You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master."

CONCLUSION

When we forget, or ignore our identity as Christians, we open the door for other things to step in. Sin wants to control us, but we should control sin by maintaining our identity in Christ.

(1Jo 3:8 NLT) ...But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.

You see, Jesus didn't come to this earth to be like us, He came so we can be like Him!

**Assignment
WORKSHEET**

Student Name: _____

Print Full First Name

Middle Initial

Print Full Last Name

Church Name: _____

Pastor: _____

Date: _____

Take your time to review the lesson before you provide your answers.

1. According to the lesson, what encompasses all the abundance of being a beloved Child of God?

2. According to the lesson, there was a straying away from the Word of God which led to what?

3. According to the lesson, we should push away our negative attitudes, and be attracted to the positive nature of what?

4. According to the lesson, the reason that we become born again of the water and spirit is to accomplish what?

5. According to the lesson, there is no identity crisis from the Lord. Then where is it at?

6. According to the lesson, when we forget or ignore our identity as Christians, what do we open?

7. According to the lesson, the definition of “identity crisis” is defined as a state of _____. Please select the best answer below:
- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| A. confusion | E. contamination |
| B. convulsion | F. concentration |
| C. contribution | |
| D. contrition | |
8. According to the lesson, when we lose sight and focus on the Lord, we lose fear and gain love. Please select the best answer: ☐ True ☐ False
9. According to the lesson, when we lose sight of our mission and focus on the things of God, we will become disinterested, discontent, and then become _____ c _____ n _____ e _____ e _____.
10. According to the lesson, when we lose our identity in Christ, everything just becomes _____, _____, and lip service.
11. According to the lesson, from the beginning of time, the Lord has clearly stated that the identity of his people is _____.
A. Unique and funny
B. In the image of God
C. Handmade to quality
D. Divinely inspired
E. Jealously desired
12. According to the lesson, the further away we move from our _____ d _____ n _____ i _____ y in Christ, we have a spiritual _____ that develops. Please select the best answer:
A. issue
B. reason
C. situation
D. problem
E. crisis
F. condemnation

Congratulations on completing this lesson. While some lessons may seem harder than others, you must always study to show yourself approved unto God, and reveal to others, what God has given you.

**Assignment
WORKSHEET**

ANSWER SHEET

Take your time to review each verse before you provide your answers.

An Identity Crisis: Lesson – B. Cruz

1. your identity
2. an identity crisis
3. God's Word
4. Change our identity
5. On our part
6. Open the door for other things to step in
7. A) confusion
8. False
9. disconnected
10. routine, tradition
11. B) in the image of God
12. identity, E) crisis

Congratulations on completing this lesson. While some lessons may seem harder than others, you must always study to show yourself approved unto God, and reveal to others, what God has given you.
