

Flint Hills Bible Church  
Biblical Soul Care Sunday School  
*Identity Crisis Part 2*

**I. Introduction**

We began talking about identity last week, we covered the fact that there is truly an identity crisis in our country. We have people “identifying” themselves by everything under the sun. This has resulted in a type of chaos that is difficult for many of us to fathom. The Gender identity topic has dominated our cultural conversation for several years now and is the premier glaring example of the confusion that we find ourselves in.

But we also expanded our conversation to include a long list of traits, experiences, and circumstances that we also have incorporated into our self perception.

There is also the complicating factor that many of these things are part of our identity - they are who we are.

How can we keep from “over-identifying” ourselves with a job, experience, talent, or attribute?

**Objectives:**

We will explore the connection between worship and identity in Scripture

**II. Who We Were Made To Be**

Who did God create us to be? We read some key bible texts to answer this question

**Genesis 1:26–28 (ESV) — 26** Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

1. What should be part of our God given identity in verse 26?
  
2. What does this imply about how we should live?

**27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

3. What do we see is added to our God given identity in verse 27?

4. What are the implications of being created male or female in this verse?
  
5. How does this affect our beliefs about male and female?

**28** And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

6. What do we see added to our God given identity here in verse 28?
  
7. What are the implications of this?

**Genesis 2:15–17 (ESV)** — **15** The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. **16** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, **17** but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

8. What is part of our God-given identity here?
  
9. What are the implications?

**Genesis 2:18 (ESV)** — **18** Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

10. What is part of our God-given identity here?
  
11. What are the implications?

**Genesis 2:24–25 (ESV)** — **24** Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. **25** And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

12. What is part of our God-given identity here? What are the implications?

### III. We Are What We Worship

We were made to worship the one true God. But instead we have worshiped any number of created things.

13. Thought question: Why do we worship?

14. Why do we and others worship false gods or idols?

**Genesis 3:4–6 (ESV)** — **4** But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. **5** For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” **6** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

15. What did Eve want?

16. What did her desire reveal about her? What was she really attracted to?

**Exodus 32:1–6 (ESV)** — **1** When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, “Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” **2** So Aaron said to them, “Take off the rings of gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” **3** So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. **4** And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” **5** When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD.” **6** And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.

17. What did Israel want?

18. What did the desires of the people reveal about their hearts?

Solomon’s Idolatry:

**1 Kings 11:1–8 (ESV)** — **1** Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, **2** from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the people of Israel, “You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.” Solomon clung to these in love. **3** He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart. **4** For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. **5** For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. **6** So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and did not wholly follow the LORD, as David his father had done. **7** Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. **8** And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods.

19. What did Solomon desire?

20. What did his desires reveal about his heart?

21. What is particularly shocking about Solomon’s fall? What can we take away from this?

**Psalms 135:15–18 (ESV)** — **15** The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of human hands. **16** They have mouths, but do not speak; they have eyes, but do not see; **17** they have ears, but do not hear, nor is there any breath in their mouths. **18** Those who make them become like them, so do all who trust in them.

Romans 1

**Romans 1:22–25 (ESV)** — **22** Claiming to be wise, they became fools, **23** and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. **24** Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, **25** because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Here in Psalm 135 and Romans 1 we see the reason people forsake God in favor of other gods, and the effect of such idolatry.

22. What does Paul indicate is the reason we forsake God in favor of idols? (v 24)

23. What is the effect of our idolatry in Psalm 135, and/or Romans 1?

The effect of our idolatry is that we are dehumanized. We are less than what God made us to be. We have made a terrible trade, thinking we would gain freedom, and joy and satisfaction. What we have actually gained is foolishness, chaos, and destruction.

24. How does this apply to the following idols?

- Money and wealth: How does the culture use money as an identity?
- Nationality, Race, Ethnicity: How can identifying by these characteristics restrict people?
- Sexuality: How does the culture use sexuality as an identity? What are the effects of this?
  - When someone says “I am a homosexual” what are they saying? What about “I am a heterosexual”?

#### **IV. The Gospel Hope!**

What is the good news we can offer to each person struggling with their identity? What is the gospel message?

**Ephesians 2:1–10 (ESV)** — **1** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— **3** among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

25. How does the gospel give hope to those stuck in their sin?

26. How is this message better than what the world offers? Why is it good news to those in an identity crisis?