

Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 1:9-13

Series – Following Jesus

Message – Identity in Jesus

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Fifth Reformed Church

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- Implications of Easter:
 - When we become Christians, we get a new life.
 - That life is to look increasingly like Jesus' life.

Identity Lost

- Culture in crisis... identity crisis
- "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27).
- Because we are created beings, our true identity can only be found in relationship with our Creator.

Invited Back

- The whole story of the Bible is one of God inviting us back into relationship with him.
- "'The days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not look like the covenant I made with their ancestors... because they broke my covenant.... This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time.... I will forgive their wickedness and remember their sins no more'" (Jeremiah 31:31ff).
- We lost our identity in the fall because we lost the relationship upon which our identity is based. The whole Bible is about God inviting us back into that relationship upon which our identity is based. And now, by grace and through faith in Jesus, we can live with confidence and freedom in our true identity.

Identity Restored

- "Abba, Father" – Jesus
- "The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children" (Romans 8:15-16).
- Adoption Story
- God's words to Jesus at his baptism

Reflection Questions

1. In addition to the examples cited in the message, where do you see evidence of identity crisis in our culture?
2. In what ways have you sought to establish your own sense of identity in the past?
3. Do you sense that any of your current struggles are linked to deeper thoughts or feelings about who you are?
4. How does it impact you to know that God chose you for adoption back into his family?
5. What ways have you sensed your own identity being shaped by the gospel?
6. What is God saying to you?
7. What are you going to do about it?