

Key Scriptures

Galatians 3:23-29

- When you think of identity, what comes to mind?

Pastor Mike said that (a) the epidemic of loneliness, (b) deaths of despair, and (c) North American individualism are factors in our current identity crisis.

- Which of these factors impact the people around you the most? Why?

David Books, in *The Atlantic Magazine* wrote:

“expecting people to build a satisfying moral and spiritual life on their own by looking within themselves is asking too much of a culture that leaves people morally naked and alone leaves them without the skills to be decent to each other “

- How do you respond to his thought that decency is a skill?

He went on to talk about vulnerable narcissists, who (a) worry about where they stand, (b) who they are, and (c) what their life is going to look like.

We looked at how we divide by multiple categories: religion, family, ethnicity, politics, gender, economic class, nationality, and others.

- How does emphasizing this create further division?

Paul in Galatians is upset that the church, believers are losing their identity of who they are in Christ and emphasizing secondary factors.

In **Galatians 3:23-29**, he makes 3 powerful statements

- You are all children of God
 - You are all clothed in Christ
 - You are all Abraham's seed
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- Why is the word “all” so important in these statements?
 - What does it mean to be a “child of God”?
 - What does it mean to be “clothed in Christ”?
Why is this connected to baptism? Why is this important?
 - What is the significance of being “Abraham's seed”?
 - As you reflect on these 3 statements, which one speaks to you the most?
 - Why is it so important to emphasize that our identity is “in Christ” over and against all other distinctions?