



HIGHEST PRAISE APOSTOLIC CHURCH FALL CURRICULUM

SERIES: WHAT IS TRUTH?

RELATIVISM VS. THE WORD OF GOD

LESSON: WHAT IS A HUMAN?

UNDERSTANDING OUR TRUE IDENTITY IN CHRIST

SERIES FOCUS: This series focuses on examining relevant, significant topics that the modern-day church, and believer, faces almost daily. In our geopolitical climate, there are many questions that the world is asking. Not everyone who asks these questions asks with the motive of facilitating learning and understanding. Instead, many influential voices in this world, are challenging the tenets of the Gospel and are trying to cause confusion around these issues. The purpose of this series is to bring clarity to the believer by examining these questions with a biblical lens and bringing the truth of God's Word into the light.

SERIES SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: John 18:33-38

LESSON FOCUS: In this lesson, we will explore the biblical truth that our identity as Christians is firmly rooted in the gospel. We will delve into how the gospel shapes our understanding of gender identity and the sanctity of human life.

LESSON SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:

Galatians 2:20 - "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

INTRODUCTION

The reality that we find our identity in Christ as Christians and human beings is usually assumed. But, more recently how we define ourselves has been challenged by our culture. This lesson aims to bring clarity to this cultural delusion.

The world often seeks to define us by fleeting standards, we are called to discover our true worth and purpose through the lens of God's Word. In this lesson, we'll explore the transformative power of the gospel and its impact on our understanding of gender identity and the sanctity of human life.

Through scriptural insights and meaningful discussions, we'll delve into how the gospel reshapes our perspectives and empowers us to live out our identity as cherished children of God. Let's dive into the riches of God's truth and unveil the beauty of our identity in Christ.

IDENTITY REDEFINED BY THE GOSPEL

Genesis 1:26 – “And 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 fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”

Human beings are image bearers of God. This human identity comes with unique responsibility to do the following:

- Be fruitful
- Multiply
- Replenish the earth
- Subdue the earth

This defines our identity as humans, now let's look at where our identity as Christians comes from. It is not defined by cultural norms or personal achievements, but by our union with Christ.

Romans 6:4 – “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

This verse is packed with lots of meaning. One of the things that Paul is showing us is how we should aim to view ourselves all the time.

How do we view ourselves? We view ourselves as people who have both died to the flesh and been made new in Christ.

This is our new, permanent identity!

GENDER IDENTITY AND GOD'S DESIGN

More recently, the question of how many genders there actually are has come into question. The fact that this in question reveals the fundamental delusion that the world is under. Satan uses the same question that he did with Eve to confuse masses of people – he says, “Did God really say?” (Genesis 3:1)

The world is now challenging God's design for gender, but God is crystal clear in His word.

God created humans in His image, male and female, each with unique roles and purposes.

Genesis 1:27 – "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

THE GOSPEL'S IMPACT ON GENDER IDENTITY

As followers of Jesus, we are called to show compassion to those that struggle with this confusion.

1 John 3:17 – “But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?”

God shows His love towards sinners when we demonstrate compassion to those in need. So, what do we say to someone who is struggling in this area?

The gospel restores brokenness and offers true identity in Christ, addressing struggles related to gender identity.

Galatians 3:28 – "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

This passage isn't saying that gender isn't a real thing. As the Bible stated before, it most certainly is. Rather, this passage is pointing us to a greater identity than race, gender or wealth status.

Paul is saying that our truest identity is now in Christ. This is answer for the confused!

THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

We've explored issues around gender confusion. Let us look at another issue concerning the sanctity of human life.

According to the CDC, the number of abortions in the U.S. alone are around 600,000-700,000 each year.

This is a devastating reality of the modern world. The same way that ancient, pagan nations sacrificed children on the altar of their false gods, "modern" people sacrifice unborn babies on the altar of their own lusts.

Why must the Christian take a stand against this?

Every life is valuable and sacred because we are made in God's image.

Psalm 139:13-14 – "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Our culture often wrestles with issues surrounding life, such as abortion and euthanasia. As followers of Christ, it's essential that we approach these topics with compassion and conviction. The Bible consistently upholds the value of life, emphasizing that it's a gift from God.

The fact of the matter is that the Bible calls us to defend those that cannot defend themselves. Additionally, we should be prepared to mourn with those women who have had an abortion and present them with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Let's spend some time reflecting on how the gospel influences our understanding of the sanctity of human life and gender.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *How does understanding your identity in Christ change the way you view yourself and others?*
2. *How can we show love and compassion to individuals struggling with questions of gender identity while remaining faithful to biblical truths?*
3. *How does the gospel influence our attitudes toward the sanctity of human life, from conception to natural death?*