



“Identity From the Blessing”

SESSION ONE

Bridging the Context

Our identity is grounded in something, something that gives us worth. Many college students are tempted to find their identity in their achievements or their relationships with others. We are a good student. Or we are popular. Or we are desirable to the opposite sex. But God wants us to find our identity in what He says about us, not in what we achieve or what others think about us. And when we find our identity and value in God, we are freed from finding our identity in our achievements, abilities, or relationships. We are freed to live as God wants us to live, with a grounded identity in what He says about us.

Fill in the Blank

- “So God created mankind in his own _____.”
- “...(God) crowned them (human beings) with _____ and _____.”
- Living from the blessing of God can bring about the _____ to be who God made you to be.
- Living from the blessing of God can bring about the freedom to get beyond our _____ and focus on _____.

Questions

1. What are the five lies about identity from Henri Nouwen? Which lie tempts you the most? What kinds of paths have believing those lies led you down?
2. Chris Siedman said, “We are only as secure as that to which we are tied.” To what is your identity tied? How secure/insecure is your identity as a result?
3. A key question for our identity is where we “get” our worth as a person. How does the culture on a college campus assign value and worth to students?
4. How does your sense of identity drive the story you live by? How does it drive your actions?
5. Living from a blessing gives you the freedom to say “Yes” and freedom to say “No”. Which freedom do you need more of, to say yes or to say no?
6. Why is it so hard for us to believe that God “bowed a knee in adoration” to us BEFORE we ever did anything?
7. In full honesty, how do you think God sees you? (Maybe a self-reflection...maybe a group question?)