

MODERNfamily

FINDING YOUR IDENTITY IS MESSY

September 20, 2015

- **Open in prayer.**
- **Introduction.**
 - Your primary identity is a beloved child of God. Live from the deepest core of who God intended you to be.
 - Being a child of God should mold and shape every single thing you do. (All of life is worship.)
 - Bible study shouldn't be about how much you know (knowledge) but about how much God transforms you through His Word (how to survive).
 - As you study the play book allow Christ to integrate it into your life.
- **The story of Jacob and Esau.**
- **Read and discuss Genesis 25:22-28.**
 - Jacob and Esau (Israel and Edom) were the fathers of the nations of Israel and Edomites as seen in Romans 9.
 - Jacob means cheater or supplanter. Esau means hairy.
 - o Discuss Pastor Derwin's statement, "Some of your greatest discipleship will be in loving those who aren't like you".
- **Your physical appearance, skills, nor family dysfunction determine your identity.**
 - Anyone of these—or all three—can be taken away from you at any time.
 - o How did these three things affect Jacob and Esau? Give an example of each.
 - o Have you ever built your identity on any of these? Share your story.
- **Don't sell your birthright and don't steal someone else's destiny.**
- **Read and discuss Genesis 25:29-34.**
 - You've been given a birthright to be His son or daughter. You're a royal priest, your daddy is the King of kings.
 - Don't steal someone's destiny—what they do and why they do it—by comparing yourself to them.
 - o Have you ever allowed a physical or emotional need become greater than your glory (your birthright)?
 - o What things try to steal your birthright?
 - o What did Pastor Derwin mean when he said, "There's no such thing as a private sin"?
 - o Is there a physical or emotional need in your life today that wants to outweigh you trusting God?
- **Sin will take you farther than you want to go and cost you more than you have.**
- **Read and discuss Genesis 27:18-24.**
 - Sin means to miss the mark of what God's goal is for your life. (HINT: Upward, Inward, Outward)
 - Jacob lied to his father. Then he lied about his heavenly Father. Mom helped Jacob deceive his dad.
 - Don't surround yourself with people who help you deceive God, yourself, and others.
 - o Discuss the statement, "Sin will take you farther than you want to go and cost you more than you have".
 - o Does someone in your group want to share a personal experience?
- **Read and discuss Genesis 27:34-38.**
 - When we neglect our identity in Christ (our birthright) it affects our lives.
 - The scene of the crime is your mind.
 - o What challenges have you faced when you replace your identity in Christ with something else?
 - o Ask yourself, "Is the decision I'm about to make going to hurt more than just me?"

- **Jacob loved Rachel.**
- **Read and discuss Genesis 29:18-25.**
- Jacob loved Rachel so much he committed to serve for seven years.
 - How is this a picture of the statement, “You can’t run away from your past”?
 - Discuss the following statement, “When you don’t repent you end up deceiving yourself or being deceived”.
- **Will you confess your sin of trying to form your own identity?**
- **Read and discuss Genesis 32:9-10.**
- This passage reflects what a person looks like when they repent and come to Jesus.
 - Is there something in your life where you need to repent so that God can do good to you?
 - Are you regularly overwhelmed by His love and grace?
 - Ask yourself, “How can I not change my life with the way that God loves me and Christ lives in and through me?”
- **God will restore you and give you your true identity. But you have to wrestle Him.**
- **Read and discuss Genesis 32:24-28.**
- Adversity makes you stronger. When God lets you suffer, that’s grace.
- God wants to wrestle things out of your hands, wrestle what was done to you.
- God changed his name from Jacob (cheater) to Israel (struggles with God) and God prevailed in his life.
 - What areas in your life have you “wrestled with Jesus”?
 - What “spiritual limp” do you have that reminds you of your true identity in Christ?
 - What things in life have tried to name you?
 - What is your name? (HINT: Beloved)
- **Jesus is the greater Jacob who prevailed and defeated sin to secure our identity.**
- Jesus wrestled for you by living a perfect life of 33 years, hung on the cross and took everything, looked like he lost, but when He came alive, He defeated sin.
- You are a beloved Child of God...that is your name, your birthright, your identity.
- **Read and discuss John 1:12.**
- This is our survival to claim our birthright as beloved children of God for the glory of God.
- **Soul-tattoo:** How have you tried to form your own identity?
Write it out, repent, and embrace God’s identity for you.
- **Close in prayer.**