



My identity is not what I think apart from the wisdom of God. My identity is not what I feel apart from the reordering of God. My identity is not what I do over and above the person of God. Challenging every thought, desire, and religious duty—taking them captive, and surrendering to Christ alone. My true, intended, and chosen identity.

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

Group Ice-Breaker:
(1) Go to biblegateway.com and read the following verses in these translations:

1 Cor 11:2 TLB
Phil 3:7 TLB
Phil 3:8-9 ESV
1 Peter 1:21 TLB
Col 2:3 PHILLIPS
Col 3:3-4 MSG

(2) Listen to Lauren Daigle's song "You Say" and/or read the lyrics

FINDING MY IDENTITY: FOLLOW YOUR HEART? Look at the lyrics of "Climb Ev'ry Mountain" (from the *Sound of Music*) or "Let It Go" (from the movie *Frozen*). What is the basic claim of each song? Contemporary western culture says that finding your identity involves following the desires of your heart. What is good about this? What is dangerous about this? **Follow up:** Read **Jeremiah 17:9**. Since God made your heart and desires, what went wrong? How is the warning of this verse a challenge to the claims of contemporary western culture?

FINDING IDENTITY IN HOW I THINK. Read **Proverbs 14:12; Rom 12:1-2**. Just because something seems right doesn't mean that it is right. Can you think of some examples?

In the Bible, "heart" can refer to the seat of intelligence—how we think, or what we understand (Mt 13:15; Jn 12:40). But Christians believe that our thinking is only trustworthy when it aligns with the wisdom of God. Discuss this. **Follow up:** Read **Rom 16:18; Gal 6:3**. How can we be deceived and how can we deceive ourselves?

FINDING IDENTITY IN WHAT I DESIRE. Read **James 3:14; 5:8; Rom 1:24**. In the Bible, "heart" can refer to the seat of emotions—how we feel or what we desire (Acts 2:37; 2 Cor 2:4). But Christians believe that our wants and desires (what we crave and what we love) need re-ordering by God. Discuss this.

Tim Keller offers the illustration of a knight 1200 years ago with two desires; his culture would tell him to accept one (aggression) and suppress the other (unusual sexual desire). Contemporary culture would say the exact opposite. The point is that we all accept some impulses and suppress others. Thus "being our true self" involves a grid given to us by our culture. Discuss this.

FINDING IDENTITY IN WHAT I DO. Read **Philippians 3:4-9**. In the Bible, "heart" can refer to the seat of the will—how we act, purpose, or decide (Acts 5:4; 2 Cor 9:7). But Christians believe my identity is not in what I do or how I perform above God himself. Discuss what it means to claim our identity in "Christ alone." **Follow up:** Read **Luke 18:9-14 & 17:10**. How are we ever guilty of acting like the Pharisee in this story?