



LIFEGROUPS

Series: *Identity*

Scripture: *Genesis 3:1-7*

Date: January 18-19, 2020

Message: **Stolen Identity**

—[LET'S START]—

Pastor Dale began his message by sharing a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. King recognized that every human, regardless of race or creed, is an image of God. It's what gives each of us dignity. It's what should cause us to treat each other with honor. Why do you suppose that it is often hard to see any image of God in others or even ourselves? Who are some of the people in your life that are most Christ like? What is it about them that makes you feel that way?

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. **GRATITUDE AND PRAYER:** What happened last week for which you are thankful? What challenges do you see in your life? Your family? The World? Thank God for the beautiful ways that He has been at work. Pray for the challenges that those in your group are currently facing.
2. Read Genesis 3:1-7 as a group. This is one of the hardest passages in the Bible to read. What do you notice about God in this passage? What do you notice about Adam and Eve in this passage? What do you notice about the serpent in this passage? What does this passage teach you about yourself?
3. Pastor Dale spoke about some of ways that Satan tries to deceive us and keep us spiritually down. He began by talking about how the devil mocks God by saying, "Did God really say that . . . ?" Pastor Dale drew a chart that showed how in God's created order that God is over humans. Satan tries to flip the script and place humans over God by mocking God's prohibition. What are some ways that Satan does this today?
4. Satan used the environment that Adam and Eve were in to get them to question God. Consider these common questions as a group. How should we respond to them?
 - "Do you really believe what the bible teaches about sexuality?"
 - "Do you really believe there is a hell?"
 - "Do you really believe that God is good when he allows so many people to suffer?"
 - "Do you really believe God says there is only one way to heaven?"
5. Pastor Dale closed his sermon by talking about the fact that we are hiders but that God is a Seeker. Look at Genesis 3:9-10. Where are some places in Scripture that we see God seeking after us? What does it mean to you that God is a Seeker of us?

—[LET'S ACT]—

LifeGroups are about more than just studying the Bible, prayer, and activities. We also want to see LifeGroups joining hands to serve together. Several years ago, many Americans began to serve on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. As we conclude this week's LifeGroup, let's talk about a way that our group can serve together. Let's take time to plan our next service activity. Close the group by taking time to pray that we would stand for Christ in our generation.

—[SERMON REVIEW]—

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. recognized that every human, regardless of race or creed, is an image of God. It's what gives each of us dignity. It's what should cause us to treat each other with honor.
- It's often hard to see any image of God in others or even ourselves.
- The serpent of Genesis 3:1-7 was evil incarnate and led the first two human beings to rebel against God and ruin their image as well as all the imagers that would descend from them including you and me. In order for the image of God to be repaired and renewed in our lives, we need to see how Satan tries to deceive and keep us spiritually down!
 - He mocks God! "Did God really say that...?" - vs. 1
 - If the evil one can get us to question God, we will actually begin to judge the Lord!
 - How does he go about infusing these doubts in our hearts and minds?
 - He uses the environment! Satan effects the atmosphere we are in.
 - We face a daily bombardment of questions, criticisms and lies especially about faith in God. We are pressured to interpret the God of the Bible and His word through the filters of society instead of deciphering the culture through the word of God and the discernment of the Holy Spirit.
 - We so want to be accepted by the culture without abandoning God that we are evolving God and his word.
 - He uses humor.
 - Bad humor however, gets you to laugh by putting someone else down. It makes you look bad while making the other person look more superior.
 - There's something about demeaning humor especially when it's aimed at your faith that makes you either want to keep it in a closet, retaliate in kind or give in and join the other side. No one enjoys being made fun of. We all want to be accepted.
 - He tells a bold lie "You won't die!" - vs. 4
 - The implication of the serpent's lie is that, "if you obey God you're going to miss out on living a fulfilled life!"
 - He skips past that and aims at God's goodness! "God isn't really a good God because if he was he would let you eat from that tree too."

- When Eve ate from the tree in verse 6, we see the decisive moment when our world changed. She made a reckless decision.
- Why didn't God intervene?
 - He had already warned them.
 - If God said something again at the Tree, it would have turned the relationship into a cost benefit analysis rather than a relationship base on love and trust.
 - God wanted a genuine love relationship with His creation. He didn't say more because He had said enough.
- Someone has said that everything that is wrong with us in this world is the result of putting ourselves in the place of God.
- We are Hiders but God is a Seeker!
 - Then the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He replied, "I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid." Vs.9-10
- Our parents hid from God but he came looking for them. God knew what had taken place behind his back but his nature is love so he offered the humans the opportunity to come clean and confess. Instead, they ran and blamed. But that didn't stop God from promising a way back to himself. He would personally visit this planet one day in human form and die the ultimate death and justify us with his sacrifice. In the future, anyone who puts their faith and trust in His Son will experience the image of God being restored in their lives.

—[NOTES]—
