



PATHFINDERS

Leading this generation into true
manhood!!

Who are you?

John 1:12-13

Men's Breakfast

Sermon given on May 15, 2021



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Who are you?

John 1:12-13

Opening Comments

- Today we continue the series: **PATHFINDERS: Leading this generation into true manhood!**
 - Who are you?
 - When we meet someone new, we generally want to know something about them
 - When men are doing that, we usually ask the question, ‘What do you do for a living?’
 - Typically, we are not looking for some deep spiritual connection, just making conversation or being social
 - How we respond to that question is meant to convey something about our identity
 - But no matter how we respond to that question it does not completely answer the question of who we are
 - Your identity is more than what you do for a living
- Identity: the fact of being who or what a person or thing is.**
- Your drivers license provides a physical description of you with a picture and your address
 - You might have diplomas and certificates describing education, training, and experience
 - Your resume tells the story of what you have done for work and other things
 - Your family and genealogy describe other aspects of your identity
 - And as Christians, our faith is a facet of our identity
 - So, in our topic for this morning, the question is, ‘Do you know who you are?’
 - Here is why that is important – Identity determines activity!
 - For example – if a man identifies as a woman – what is he going to do?
 - He may try to change his appearance to look like a woman – including surgical changes

- He may seek access to women's facilities like restrooms and locker rooms
- He may seek to participate in women's activities - like sports
- He may try to establish a romantic/physical relationship with men
- And while there are issues with all those activities – the big issue is that he is not a woman, no matter what he feels or thinks or does

- Turn to **Matthew 16**

- Identity determines activity!
- Identity also determines how I act toward others
- For example: I am going to have a hard time treating a man who identifies as a woman like a woman because, well, he's a guy!
- Let's look at our definition of identity again

Identity: the fact of being who or what a person or thing is.

- Our identity is what we are, not what we feel like, or want to be, or think we are
- Jesus addressed the issue of identity

- **Matthew 16:13**

- 'Who am I'

- **Matthew 16:14-17**

- Jesus said, 'That's right Peter – I am the Christ, the Son of the living God.'
- So, if identity determines activity, then we should act like Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, right
- Well, how do we do that? **Matthew 22:37-39**

Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment.

³⁹ And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

- If Jesus is the Christ, act like it – love Him with all of yourself
 - How do you do that? **John 14:15**
- If you love Me, keep My commandments.**
- If Jesus is the Christ, act like it by loving Him with your whole being by keeping His commandments
 - We learn how to do that through community with other believers and by knowing what He has said in His Word
 - A man can identify as a woman, but it doesn't change the fact that he is a man

- When we received Christ, our facts were changed **2 Corinthians 5:17**
Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
- Our identity was changed by God through faith in what Christ did for us on the cross
- There are three aspects of our new identity I would like to touch on today
- The first one of found in **John 1:12-13 - Child of God**
But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- If you are a Christian, then you are a **Child of God**
- Identity determines activity! How do I act like a child of God?
- **Genesis 1:26a** tells us something about how God created us
Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...”
- We were created to project the image of God out into the world
- Everything we do or say says something about who God is
- If you are yelling at your kids or fighting with your wife, what kind of image of God are they seeing?
- If you are cursing at drivers on the road, what image of God are they seeing?
- If your boss can't trust you to show up on time or do your work, are they seeing a true reflection of God?
- As a child of God, I try to examine everything I do or say and ask myself what it says about God, my Father in heaven.
- Turn to **John 15**
- First – **I am a child of God**
- Second – **I am a friend of Jesus**
- **John 15:12-15**
- Some of the traits we look for in friends is faithfulness, loyalty, and love
- If I am a new creation in Christ, and a child of God – then Jesus calls me His friend
- Do I act like a friend to Jesus?
- In these verses we see that loving other Christians and obeying Jesus are evidence of my friendship with Jesus

- Can I be watching porn and say that I am being faithful to my friend Jesus? No!
- Can I steal from my employer and say I am being loyal to my friend Jesus? No!
- Can I be judgmental toward other Christians and say that I am loving my friend Jesus? No!
- Through faith in Christ our identities were changed – you are a son of Father God and you are a friend of Jesus
- The apostle Paul helped us to understand how to act like a friend to Jesus **1 Corinthians 11:1**
Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.
- Paul also said **2 Corinthians 13:5**
Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.
- Examine yourself – examine your deeds, your words, and your thoughts
- Ask yourself – is this how my friend Jesus would act, speak, or think?
- And if not, God is calling you to change
- Why? Why would God call you to change?
- If you are not acting like a child of God and friend of Jesus, then you are acting in contradiction to the facts of your identity – like the man identifying as a woman
- Through faith in Christ, you ARE a new creation – and your identity is a child of God and a friend of Jesus
- Turn to **1 Corinthians 6**
- Third and final aspect of your identity in Christ – **I am a temple of the Holy Spirit!**
- **1 Corinthians 6:18-20**
- These verses challenge me to examine my life for holiness, Christlikeness
- But also to examine who I am living my life for
- Am I living my life for what I can get out of it?
- Am I living for pleasure, success, fulfillment, or recognition?
- Notice the phrase, ‘you are not your own’

- Your life is not about you – bought by the blood of Jesus
- The man who identifies as a woman is living for himself
- He believes his desires or passions are the highest thing in his life
- As a new creation through faith in Jesus I am a child of God and part of my identity is to reflect the image of God to everyone I come into contact with
- I am also a friend of Jesus and faithfulness, loyalty, and love are trademarks of the friendship
- I am also a temple of the Holy Spirit and therefore I am seeking to be holy – as holy as God Himself by yielding to the refining power of the Holy Spirit
- Turn to **Jeremiah 12**
- Having a firm grasp on your identity is crucial, especially as the world continues to go the direction that it is **2 Timothy 3:1-5**
But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!
- We are living in the days of the end
- And it is not likely to get easier to live in this world
- That truth is the reason Kevin chose the book of Jeremiah, especially this verse
- **Jeremiah 12:5**
- We have got to be prepared to live in a world that is having an identity crisis
- To do that, we must have a firm grasp on who we are in Christ
- Turn to one last place and then we will close **Ephesians 6**
- As men we are called to lead – that is part of our identity in Christ
- As the world gets more confused and confusing to those we are called to lead, we need to be a beacon that guides them toward truth, toward God, toward Christ, and toward the working of the Holy Spirit
- But it won't be easy
- **Ephesians 6:10-18**
- Please stand up

- Standing up against the spiritual hosts of wickedness will never be easy, but we are more able if we know who we are
- Who are you? Please repeat these with me!
- I am a child of God!
- I am a friend of Jesus!
- I am the temple of the Holy Spirit!
- One more time! – That is who you are!
- To live a life that glorifies God, blesses others, and grows faith everything else that you are in life must be a subset of those three things
- And personally, I have discovered that the more I understand what each of those three things mean – the bolder and more fearless I become
- I am a child of the infinitely powerful Creator God
- I am a friend of the Savior of the world, my Savior Jesus
- I am a temple of the Holy Spirit and all my life is His
- Brothers, your identity begins and ends in Christ
- And there is amazing power in the name of Christ! Amen!
- Gentlemen, go forth and act like who you are!
- **Let's pray!**