

# Changing the Way You Think

Church and Culture (Part 10):

## *Identity (Part 3) "Image Bearers"*

**Identity \* Purpose \* Success \* Beauty \* Love \* Hope**

2012 Documentary: *The Woman Who Wasn't There*

**Why would someone do that?**

### We Are Image Bearers of God

#### Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, "Let Us make mankind in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the livestock and over all the earth, and over every crawling thing that crawls on the earth." <sup>27</sup> So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

- **Reflect His Characteristics**
- **Represent His Creativeness and Power**
- **Agents of His Goodness and Love**
- **Male and Female**

### Rejecting or Exchanging Our True Identity

#### Romans 1:21-23

For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their reasonings, and their senseless hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and they exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible mankind...

- **Foolish Arrogance**

#### Isaiah 29:16

Shall the potter be considered as equal with the clay,  
That what is made would say to its maker, "He did not make me";  
Or what is formed say to him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?

- **Desperation to Belong to Legitimize Our Existence and Affirm Our Worth**

**We search for our core identity in:**

- Something we do
- Something that has happened to us
- Something we desire
- Something we like or enjoy
- Highlighting some secondary attribute
- Or even something we haven't done, or that hasn't happened to us or, that we don't desire or enjoy

**Material Possessions:** (Rich & Famous, The Homeless, Income, class...)

**Race:** (Black/White/Asian...)

**Sexual Orientation:** (Gay/Straight/Bisexual/Transgender)

**Political Perspective:** (Conservative/Liberal/Progressive...)

**Nationality:** (American/Asian/Middle Eastern...)

**Generation:** (Baby Boomers/ Gen X/Millennials...)

**Education:** (Academia, Literate/Illiterate...)

**Physical Ability:** (Olympians, Sports Stars, The Disabled/Handicapped...)

**Social Station:** (Social Media...)

**Personality Types:** (Myers Briggs – Introverts/Extroverts/Inspector/Giver/Mastermind/Visionary/Performer...)

**Overt Fantasy:** (Avatars/Gaming/Make Believe Worlds...)

## A Path of Great Sorrow and Unfulfillment

Isaiah 45:9

“What sorrow awaits those who argue with their Creator. Does a clay pot argue with its maker? Does the clay dispute with the one who shapes it, saying, ‘Stop, you’re doing it wrong!’ Does the pot exclaim, ‘How clumsy can you be?’”

### • The Ultimate Identity Thief

- **“The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy...” (John 10:10)**

*“Did God Really Say You Can’t...” (Gen. 3:1)*

- Never Ending Search
- Fighting for a False Cause
- Confusion and Unfulfillment
- Hurting Yourself and Hurting Others
- Resentment and Despair

This is why it is so grievous and offensive to challenge a person’s perceived identity.

### • Trusting My Maker

- **“My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life...” (John 10:10)**

- He Made You...He Loves You, He’ll Never Give Up On You...

*“I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb.  
Before you were born I set you apart...”*

**Jeremiah 1:5**

You watched me as I was being formed...as I was woven together  
in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born.

Every day of my life was recorded in your book.

Every moment was laid out  
before a single day had passed.

**Psalms 139:15-16**