

BRAVE NEW YOU

04/28/2024 "The Battle Within: Confronting Our internal Struggles"

1. What stood out to you most from Sunday's message? Why?
2. Our culture—customs, traditions, environment, location—has a big impact on our identity and how we see the world. What cultural influences played a role in your upbringing?
3. Who had a big impact in helping shape who you are—positively or negatively? How?

The search for identity can often be frustrating and illusive. It is often drawn from the people around us, the things we enjoy, our hobbies, successes, or even, our failures. While these things may shape who you are, they are not the essence of who you are.

4. Jesus' identity was revealed in Matthew 3:13-17 and again in Matthew 16:13-17. What is made known about His identity? From where does this identity come?
5. What do you think of Pastor John's statement that, your true identity has to come from outside yourself?
6. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. Paul presents a before and after identity in these verses. What are they and how would you describe them?
7. Take a closer look at the identity given to those who follow Jesus. What things do you discover about who we are created to be? How does God describe you?
8. Which statement or phrase from these verses resonates with you most? Why?

Paul talks about the former identity and a new identity in Jesus. This implies a type of death, a change, from one to the other. Jesus says, "those who lose their life for Jesus will find true life." Some things need to be sacrificed in order to find our true identity.

9. How does your life—your words, actions, your identity—impact the lives of others?
10. What things might you need to sacrifice, or set aside, in order to experience the identity God wants you to experience? (Consider Ephesians 2:1-10)
11. How do you need to respond to this week's message and scripture readings? Where do you feel God calling you to take action?