

Word: Key points from Sunday's sermon

Who am I? I can pull out my driver's license, passport, my photo, birth certificate, credit cards, organ donor card and they all prove to you who I am - or would they? Why do we spend such a great deal of life searching for our true identity? Identity Theft is becoming more and more prevalent in today's world. It seems easy to have your identity stolen and for someone else to officially become "you". Is it possible that I am not even me – that someone else is me? Well not really but certainly its not good enough to simply point to my identification: driver's license, social security card, passport, birth certificate etc,

The passage in Genesis reveals the secret of our true identities. Look at verse 26. We may notice that God refers to himself as us and here we can begin to unpack the truth about our identity and the fact that **we are called from within – called from within God's very self. God is love.** In order to love we must have someone to express that love towards. And so it is and always was that **God is three in one – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This triune relationship existed before even the creation of the world.** In the beginning of Genesis the spirit hovered over the waters of the earth. We read later in the bible that Jesus is the great "I am" – who was, and is, and is to come. **And so our triune God was and is completely love.** It is as though God's love spilled over in His creating of humankind. God's creative love expressed in creating Adam...and in creating you and I...whom they made in their own image....

God's intention in calling us from within His very self is that he made us to love and to be loved. In other words to participate in His love. It all went wrong when Adam used his freewill and disconnected with God, eating from the tree of knowledge. Suddenly Adam was aware of his own nakedness, he felt shame and all the things that God never desired for him. Since that time **God has been calling Adam, the human race, you and I, back to our original identity. Back to the Garden of Eden, back to a relationship with Himself which is totally about love, freedom and acceptance. For God is love.**

In Genesis we read that God made us in His image...we have the image of God within us. We are aware of God's characteristics – of love, kindness, joy etc...and God know's us...

Read the following passages, spend time listening to the Spirit... Look at **Psalm 139.** He knew us even when we were knit together in our mother's womb but the bible tells us that God called us even before we were in our mother's womb...Look at **Ephesians chapter 1...** the Father chose us **in** Jesus. God sacrificed his very self in order for you and I to find our way back to our true identity...which is that calling from within. He loves us and how could he not? If God's called and created us out of His very loving self, then God Himself would give Himself up for us. God is love and His intention for you and I is that we fully participate in experiencing that love. The world and the devil has tried to steal that love and we struggle with our own identity theft... **God is calling us back, from within. He made a way back in & through the death & resurrection of Jesus.** Read **Colossians 1 verses 15 onwards & Romans 8 – 28-30** Throughout history people are responding to God's calling us from within. When we accept Jesus in our lives we have Him within ourselves. Christ **in** you- the hope of glory. **The search for our true identity is about being completely united with God and we are united with Him through Jesus.** If you love me and will come to me then I will make my home in you – Jesus' words in John's gospel.

In the bible it says that **we are being changed from one degree of glory to another.** As we allow ourselves to be called from within, back to our true identity, to join in the dance of our triune God, the Spirit is within us, changing us and moulding us into the shape and design that God intends. **"Who am I?"** He reveals the answer to us in and through Jesus.

Witness: Questions to discuss

- 1 Discuss the question "Who am I?"
- 2 In what ways do you feel you have struggled with your own identity theft?
- 3 If we accept the truth of the scriptures about our identity and God's calling from within Himself, how would this affect us?
4. Discuss the meaning of the word purpose... What is the purpose of your life?
- 5 Spend time in stillness reflecting on the scriptures shared and asking God to you reveal the depth of His love for you.