

TOD

Talks Over Dinner

TOD TALK : Identity

Schedule of Evening

5:30 – 6:00 Dinner

6:00 – 6:15 Game:

6:15 – 7:00 Todd

Food: 130ish people

Game: celebrity guessing game that could lead into conversation about the characters

- Can't talk about what the famous person has done. EG: can't say that LeBron James is a b-ball player for the Lakers or that he founded the iPromise school. Have to talk about what makes him LeBron.

Leader:

- **Define what we mean by identity**
 - o When we talk about identity, we are not talking about what we do, how other people perceive us, who we hope to be, not talking about personality, or even who we decide we are. We are talking about who God has created us to be. Ultimately, the only person who gets to define who we are is God because He is our Creator.
- **Table discussion**
 - o Who/what do you allow to define who you are? And have you defined who other people are.
- **Identity v. characteristic**
 - o What you do is not who you are
 - Your actions whether good or bad are not what make up your identity.
 - When we are praised for something, we often tend to then identify ourselves for that thing (Example: being smart or athletic)
 - And when we make bad decisions and mistakes it is also very easy to identify ourselves with that thing (Example: I'm stupid, I'm a pervert, I'm an addict, etc.)
 - o Take time to distinguish the difference
 - Characteristics
 - Funny/melancholy
 - Thoughtful/selfish

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- Strong/vulnerable
- Smart/dumb
- Adventurous/reserved
- Serious/silly
- Identity
 - Made in the image of God
 - We are forgiven
 - We are new creations
 - We have a future hope
 - We are loved and chosen
 - We are known
- The only person that gets to claim who we are is God. Even we don't get to claim who we are. We don't get to define ourselves. Our job is to search for and understand who God tells us we are because He is the only one with that right.
 - Table Discussion?
 - What identity have you given to yourself?
- All the items in the identity list we just made are based on God's action. **Without God's action we are unidentified. We are not defined by what we do/our action but by what God has done and is doing.**

So, the question is what has God done? And what identity has He give to us?

- We are going to be spending the next several weeks answering that question and the place we find it is in God's Word. God gave us the Bible so that we can learn about who He is and who we are.
 - When we look at the Bible, we see God interact with people and from those interactions we see the difference between who they thought they were and who God claims they were. From their stories we can learn who God claims that we are.
 - Give a few examples:
 - David: warrior v. coward
 - Moses: bold v. afraid
 - Joseph: seen/known v. forgotten