

The Identity Crisis

1 Corinthians 6; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 6-12-2022

1. Identity matters. (1, 2, 8, 11, 15, 19, 20)

What we think we are or who we think we are will shape how we live.

- We are saints (set apart for God). (1)
- We are judges (mind of Christ). (2)
- We are family members (obligations). (8)
- We are the washed (forgiven), the sanctified (loved), and the justified (accepted). (11)
- We are members of Christ (union). (15)
- We are the temple (holy of holies) of the Holy Spirit. (19)
- We are the purchased (cross) of God. (20)

2. Lawsuits between believers should be in-house and rare. (1-8)

Lawsuits (civil) between believers should be handled in the Church. (1-6)

- The saints will judge the world. (Matthew 19:28) (2)
- The saints are competent to judge. (2)
- The saints will judge angels. (3)
- We should not appeal to unbelievers to settle civil matters unnecessarily. (4)
- It is shameful to appeal to unbelievers to resolve differences between believers. (5)
- There should be a wise believer among us that can judge between brothers. (5)

Lawsuits (civil) between believers should be the exception rather than the rule. (7-8)

- Lawsuits between believers is an issue in itself (heart issue). (7)
- The unwillingness to be wronged and defrauded is an issue. (Luke 6:27-36) (7)
- Instead, there is a willingness to wrong and defraud. (8)
- And the willingness to wrong and defraud is with those who should be the most dear to us (1 John 3:16). (8)

3. Sex is not simply functional, physical and personal. (12-20)

Sexual immorality (sexual activity outside of a proper marriage context) contradicts the purpose of the body. (12-14)

- It is not profitable. (12)
- It masters us. (12)
- Function does not approve of any context or any use. (13)
- Our bodies were not made for sex, but for the glory of God. (13)
- Our bodies will be resurrected one day for God's glory. (14)

Sexual immorality is a spiritual activity. (15-17)

- Our bodies are united to the body of Christ. (15)
- What I do with my body, I involve Christ in it. (15)
- Sex is a 'one flesh' spiritual union. (Genesis 2:24) (16)
- We are in union with Christ. (Romans 6:1-7) (17)

Sexual immorality desecrates the temple of God. (18-20)

- God commands us to *flee* immorality, not *fight* it! (18)
- Sexual sin is a sin against our own bodies. (Romans 1:27; Proverbs 7:22-27) (18)
- Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. (19)
- Our body is not our own. (19)
- Our body and our lives have been bought on the cross. (Revelation 5:9) (20)
- We are to use our bodies to glorify God. (20)

4. The gospel transforms. (9-11)

The gospel must transform your worship or you will not enter the kingdom.

- The evidence of true faith is the fruit of our lives. (Matthew 7:15-21)
- The worship factor is what is common in all practical issues. (1 Thessalonians 1:9)

Materialism is a worship disorder. If we are 'created-things worshipers', we will not inherit the kingdom; if we habitually look to created things to supply instead of God. (Matthew 6:24-34) *Sexual sin is a worship disorder.* If we are 'creature-worshippers', we will not inherit the kingdom; if we habitually look to creatures to satisfy instead of God. (Romans 1:24-25)

5. Truth matters. (2, 3, 9, 15, 16, 19)

Living to please God requires that I know and believe the truth. Truth matters because we are enslaved by believing lies. To see and embrace the truth is to be set free from sin's lies and deceptions. The truth sets us free. (John 8:31-32)

God created us to glorify and enjoy Him through trust and love.

- Who or what are you?
- What do you want more in your relationships: your rights or God's glory?
- Do you see your sexual temptations as calling you to create spiritual unions that dishonor and defile and distance you from Christ?
- What are you trusting Christ for and how has it changed your life?
- Does truth matter enough to you to cause you to make time to read and meditate on the Word every day?

Jesus is an able and willing Savior for you and me!

- Are you trusting Jesus to save you from the penalty of sin (hell)?
- Are you trusting Jesus to save you from the power of sin?