

Computer Generated Transcript - We're going to wrap up our series this morning and we're going to we've been preaching through life for several weeks several months Scuse me. And I want to end today with this topic I told you last week when I first planned this out when we started down this series road I only had two messages in mind I only had two of them planned and it was last weeks and it was this week so the only two how that I really planned out ahead of time and I told you last week if you've been here any amount of time you know that that's weird for me I talk about it all the time I'm not a very organized person but I'm pretty organized when it comes to preparing where we're going as a church when I'm when we're when I'm preparing messages to talk to you I'm usually between four and six months out with my messages and I am not this time there were only two that I was I was really preparing for I had this verse running through my mind for a couple of weeks before we even started this and it's funny because the students went to N.Y.C. In the meantime and they heard a message that was very similar to what I'm going to preach today one of the verses I had Roland in my mind the other one man he came back and said you should put this in there and we've been kind of working through it and getting it ready but this is to me a pivotal issue today that we're talking about in our walk with Christ and it might seem trivial to some of you because you've been doing this a long time but but even still if we've been following Jesus for any amount of time it's easy to get off track on this thing and so what we're going to be talking about today is identity we're talking about identity where does your identity come from how do you see yourself where do you draw from to receive that identity where does that where does that begin and end for you and I want to tell you if we get this messed up as followers of Jesus if we take this and we miss this angle if we miss this point we're going to really screw a lot of things up because when we draw our identity from wrong things what that means is we really have a wrong sense of who God is. Yes. We allow stuff to dictate our identity instead of what the Word of God wants to say about our identity and we get off on all kinds of things so I want to ask you a few questions as well as we get through this I'm not going to ask you for literal responses this time that might happen a little bit later but right now this is just for introspection I want you to ask these questions of yourself all right and I want you to try and answer them I want you to think through these things and I want you to try and come up with an answer Who am I. Well as I question when you ask that question yourself who I am I what pops in your mind right what defines me. What what what makes me me is that my name. Right I don't know how many of you know what your name means how many you know isn't a my name means healer What's your name mean God is my strength. Well is that. Helper of mankind I thought you said Awesome of mankind for a second but I didn't think that sounded right helper of mankind what else is your name mean. He who is like God Isn't it amazing how many of our names point to God that is that make us who we are does that make us who we are does your last name make you who you are did you ever hear this is a kid usually when you were in trouble. Maybe none of you got in trouble I was in trouble regularly. That's not how Kirkman's act you probably didn't hear curse means fill in your old we're cursed mince that's not what we do right. Is it your last name does that the find you maybe you have a junior or of the third at the end of your name or something like that does that define who you are does that make you you. How about your ethnicity your nationality where you were born does that make you who you are when you think who am I is that in the forefront is that is that part of it I'm Russian German That doesn't mean I have any Russian blood in me that means I'm German and my ancestors moved to Russia in this little pocket of people and then they moved to America in stayed in a little pocket of people most of them stayed in this little area of North Dakota My grandma was born in this country and didn't learn to speak English until she was in her early teens because that was the first time they had an English speaking teacher come to their school. So she was born here but it was this little pocket of German she'll still tell you she dreams in German she you know when she really needs to express herself she speaks in German and then she translates into English for you but I think it's also now a Russian German because we got the best of both worlds we got all the all the meats from Germany and we got all the dos from Russia so our meals are awesome All right I love that but it was does that make you who you are most of you around here probably are some sort of Scandinavian you know Swedish You have terror.

Able food like Luda Fisk in your lineage I don't understand why people still celebrate that but some of you do and you think I'm weird for not liking it so it's like the only food I've never been able to put into my mouth on multiple occasions I've got to right here and then I just bailed like as soon as it got in the nose range it was done I like I just couldn't get it into my mouth but you have some other good things I like left my step mom is a stand in Navy and so we do some of that stuff too but is that is that what makes you who you are is your nationality your ethnicity I mean to do those things define you what what makes us who we are is that your title is it your job is that is that what makes you who you are unfortunately many of us would like to say no to that question but really honestly we kind of define ourselves by our role and by our work that's kind of how we draw you know satisfaction and all of those kind of things and I'm not saying you shouldn't have a job and you shouldn't enjoy your work I'm just saying is that really what makes you who you are is it related to your gender right if I if I say Who are you is your gender does that define who you are maybe the role of your gender right so if we start talking about men and women I know this isn't cool to do today but I want to do it anyway you know when you start breaking down in traditional gender or gender roles you know does that make you who you are. Maybe maybe you like to flip it on that and you're like oh yeah I'm a lady who doesn't know who won't be defined by those or I'm a man and you know I don't but it still defines us is an illness that defines you is that what defines you in illness unfortunately I've met so many people who allow themselves to be defined. By an illness it's really the core of who they've become an illness and it's heartbreaking. Is it things that went beyond your choices. Where and how you were raised right whether your parents had money or not. What side of town you were born and raised on you know all of those kind of things that define who you are does that make it maybe you were a church kid that the fine you you were the church kid so you didn't do things right like as a church kid were never defined by what we get to do we're always defined by what we don't do right now is that the definition of who you are what your parents do for a living whether or not they're still married does that define who you are things done to you if you were abused does that abuse define you does that make you who you are. Maybe it's the group you were apart over you weren't a part of I'm going to date myself a little bit right now when I was in high school there were all there were names for all the groups and if you've ever seen Saved By The Bell That's basically how I went to high school. There were the preppies those were the kids who had money right and they dressed real nice and all those things the jocks You know those are all the sports kids they did those things the stoners were the always the ones they were always high like the stoners were always high I don't know how that happened but they always found a way to be high all day every day and just to the smokers that wasn't part of the stoners maybe you could go over both but the smokers are always in the alley across from the high school that's just all that's where they went that's that's kind of where they were there were there were all of these groups and we call them cliques a lot of times and really a click is just in a group you're not a part of usually right I mean it doesn't even necessarily mean they're a click a click means they want to accept anyone new but we're not a part of that group and maybe we'd like to be but we're too shy or embarrassed or whatever to go over there and try and be part of that group so there are a click because I don't really want to make the effort to go over there does that define you what group you were a part of or or weren't a part of right is that the core of who you are we have a ton of issues in our American side of society today because people don't know who they are they just they flat don't know who they are or maybe sometimes they grab all of the wrong things and try and heap that on as some sort of identity and that's what they allow to a loud to identify them listen I want to tell you that every one of those things that I just mentioned is a piece of who you are. Is a piece and the reason I say that is it's a piece of who you are because it's a part of your story and our story is made up of a whole bunch of things some of them in our control some of them out of our control and it makes up a piece of who we are but that should that be our identity should should all of those pieces of the story should that define what makes us. US and I would say that if the answer that question is yes. And I want to challenge you to go a little deeper in your thinking. Because while that makes up part of your story while that makes up a piece of who you are. It's not where we should draw our identity

from all right I want you to open your Bible to Genesis Chapter three we're going to look in the very beginning here all right this was kind of the portion of Scripture that when I was planning this out this was kind of in my head and and I want to I want to really kind of go at it most of you if you've been around church or probably heard this reference at some point time or not I know a lot of you in here this this faith journey thing is pretty new to you and we have people from all kinds of different walks of life all different stations of faith as they come into this place and I love that about this church we come together and we're able to be together and grow together and so maybe you've never heard this before maybe you've heard this a thousand times but I want you to see something in this original story that maybe is never popped out to you before in this way I was actually reading through a book the first time this this kind of stuck out to me and I man he said that this was actually used kind of like this at N.Y.C. This year I wasn't there but that's what she told me but I want to talk about original sin this morning did you I want you to just kind of hear it again original sin as we read through this I want you to hear that original sin was heavily involved in Adam and Eve identity. And who they were and what they believed about themselves all right not not just like now they're Adam and Eve in their sinners but like. When the serpent came to tempt one of the things he tried to confuse them about was who they really were and what they would really become. All right and so I want to read this we're going to read Genesis Chapter three we're going to start in verse one the serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made one day he asked the woman Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden so now we're trying to make your second guess what she actually heard OK So did God really say that of course verse two we may eat fruit from the trees of the garden the woman replied It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat God said You must not eat it or even touch it if you do you will die when you hear verse four. I just accidentally closed my message so you're going to have to give me just a second because I hit the back button. It's awesome. Verse four is where we're at you won't die the serpent replied to the woman God knows your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it and you will be like God. Knowing both good and evil the serpent comes right to her and says listen you're not going to die. The core of who you are is going to change. You're going to be like God. You're going to be like God verse six The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit look delicious she wanted the wisdom it would give her so she took some of the fruit unaided and she gave some to her husband who was with her and he ate it too at that moment their eyes were opened and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness it did change how they thought. It did change how they operated but not in the way they thought they felt shame so they sewed thing these together and to cover themselves when the cool evening breezes were blowing the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden so they hid from the Lord God among the trees then the Lord God called to the man Where are you he replied I heard you walking in the garden so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked verse eleven Who told you you were naked the Lord got us have you ever eaten Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not. God didn't actually have to ask Who told you right he already knew this is for our benefit God looks at them and says. Who did you just draw your identity from. Who told you you were naked I didn't tell you you were naked. This isn't one of the things that I set apart for you this isn't one of the things that I told you about you. Who told you you were naked where did this thought come from why are you now defining yourself this way. Instead of by what I told you so I don't want to land here forever I don't want to make this a bigger deal than it is but I think it's very interesting. That original sin is all wrapped up. In identity and false identity in believing something about themselves other than what God set apart for them other than what God told them when we leave that umbrella of what God says about us when we leave that protection of what God says we are. We've just missed what what is actually best. For us I want you to stay in Genesis and I want you to turn to Chapter twenty seven. Genesis Chapter twenty seven. We just jumped ahead lots of time OK by flipping toward the end of this book Genesis Chapter twenty seven and what we're going to be looking at is Jacob and Esau All right Jacob and Esau are twin brothers they're there they're going through life and now they're a they're adults and their dad Isaac is about

to die he's blind he's he's he's getting ready to bless his sons as was tradition and Jacob had earlier gotten to trade his birthright to him by giving him some really good soup when he was hungry and so so you saw traded his birthright and now Jacob's mom kind of comes along side of she kind of instigates almost this idea of let's go get the blessing to your brother sold you his birthright now we're going to go get his blessing OK and so Esau is a hairy due to all of these things right and so they take goats for and put it on there because Isaac's almost blind and I still don't understand how is it could understand the difference between their voices you know but I mean you've got a dad who can't tell his kids apart and and and Jacob succeeds he goes in and he gets his brother's blessing and Esau is so angry with this and he goes to his dad he's almost begging don't you have any other blessing to give isn't do you are you only capable of blessing one son can't you bless me too. OK And that's where the story picks up that's where we're going to grab Genesis Chapter seven twenty seven we're going to look at verse thirty eight All right we're going to look at verse thirty eight. These pleaded but do you have only one blessing all my father bless me two then Esau broke down and wept this was a huge deal for this son to receive a blessing and finally his father Isaac says to him and when you read this at first glance it almost looks like instead of blessing Isaac he curses him. It almost looks that way. Verse thirty nine finally as father Isaac said to him you will live away from the richness of the earth and away from the dew of the heaven above you will live by your sword and you will serve your brother. And if we stop right there. It sounds like a curse right. You're going to live away from all the good stuff. All the good stuff of this earth you're not going to get it instead you're going to be a man of war. You're going to be a man of war who serves your younger brother for all you altars out there how's that sound you. Saw a good day right your entire life is going to be spent in service to your kid brother awesome I'm an older I'm the oldest This is going to happen right like that's not how the world works. It's but listen I did it doesn't stop there there's an end of this verse. But when you decide to break free. You will shake his yoke from your neck Isaac is just speaking about the future and what he's saying to his son is. Bad stuff has just happened to you you just had stuff happen that wasn't good and it's going to bear fruit. You're going to walk in that for a while you're going to walk in that definition of what has just happened to you you're going to walk away from the good stuff you're going to live in solitude going to live away from the richness of the earth because of of all that just happen you're going to serve your brother you're going to be a man of war because you're angry about what just went down but when you decide to break free. This yoke will break too and I want you to hear that because some of you in here have had things happen to you that weren't of your doing. That weren't of your choice. That weren't what you ever wanted to happen. And you have allowed those things to guide you and to define you and to make you who you are you've lived under the yoke of what happened to you. But I want you to hear the Word of God from the pages of scripture all of those thousands of years ago as he looks at this son and through the father speaks but when you you decide to shake free this burden will fall off of you and some of you need to decide this morning that you're done being defined by what has happened to you and you're going to find a different definition you're going to stop letting other people's decisions define who you are and you're going to let that yoke fall off of you because there's a better way there's a better way I want you turn to the New Testament now you're going to turn a long ways in your Bible to Colossians Colossians chapter three that's going to be way in the New Testament you're going to hit Romans Corinthians all of those things are going to be in their goal ations effusions Philippians Colossians All right that's that's kind of where we're going to be if you get the Timothy's you've gone too far turn back toward the beginning kolache and Chapter three we're going to read this part I want to start this other this other place this place of of wrong definition and I want to come to what Jesus actually says about us and some of this seems a little strange but we're going to go through it all right. Kolache and Chapter three. We're going to reverse one. Cautions chapter three verse eleven in this new life it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile circumcised or uncircumcised barbaric uncivilized slave or free I want to stop right there for a second. And we'll come and finish this all right in this new life this new life that we find in Jesus in this new life the new life that we find through Jesus and who he is it doesn't matter if you're a Jew or a Gentile this statement didn't

matter much to the Gentiles OK but it mattered to the Jews because the Jews viewed themselves as the in religious cloth with the in religious crowd like the only ones who really knew who God was there they were the evil eat in their own minds of who got a for God didn't come to save the Gentiles God came to deliver the Jews in their minds all right they were the they were the special one set apart by God everything in Scripture wasn't about anybody else it was all about the Jews being who God wanted them to be and Paul looks at them in this letter and he says it does not matter. Whose blood you have running through your weight your veins. Jew or Gentile which is Jew or everybody else right to the Jews there were only two people groups in the world there were the Jews. And everybody else who didn't matter so it doesn't matter whose blood is running through your veins it doesn't matter if you are circumcised or uncircumcised that was a physical reminder for Jewish male that they were born a Jew their parents chose for them to stay Jews and they were going to be Jews until the day they died so it doesn't matter whose blood you have in you and it doesn't matter what your parents decided your religion was going to be OK You understand that it doesn't matter who you are doesn't matter what blood is running through your veins it doesn't matter doesn't matter what your parents tried to decide for you. It doesn't matter if you're a barbaric or a uncivilized your translation might say a skin of the in right there OK what's the skin the in. What in the world is a skill the end right if you really want to zing somebody at the dinner table for having bad manners called to give the OK because we understand barbarian fairly well right and in the Roman culture basically everybody who wasn't in a part of the Roman Empire and really honestly part of the core Roman countries they were barbarians OK if you were if you were part of the core Roman thing and you historians out there you back me up on this if you were part of the core Roman groups that thought Roman an active Roman and did all of those kind of things you were a barbarian because you thought differently than what most people thought you were a barbaric you didn't have those good manners you weren't educated as well you didn't you know it's all of those things if you were a skin of the and you were even worse the skin of the ends were right on the very edge of the known world OK if you made a map and you look a riot on the edge of that that's where the Skins were you were even worse than a barbarian you didn't even know what manners were you couldn't read you couldn't write you had no way to improve your future you were is far removed from intellect and good behavior as a person can be it doesn't matter. If you're a barbarian or a skin it doesn't matter. If your slave or free slavery in this time by and large. And this pocket of the world was not based on race as it was here in America all right and I'm not trying to say one is right and one is wrong that's not what I'm trying to say but slavery in this day and age was almost always based on a financial condition OK if you didn't have enough money to live you just sold one your kids OK and I know that most of us like it's so terrible and it is terrible but honestly most of the parents did this they would sell them because the only people that can afford to buy them are the people so at least they're going to eat at least they're going to be clothed at least they're going to have that but most people in this day and age were slaves not by choice not because of race or anything like that they were slaves because of financial issues and public sentiment says it doesn't matter if you're slavery or free doesn't matter if you're own or own or it doesn't matter if you're wealthy or you're so poor. That your slave that was another way you could pay a debt if I owed Mike more money than I could possibly pay Mike I could agree to become a slave at a fee and my life and service would pay off that debt until either the debt was made or until I died whichever came first so he's saying it doesn't matter how much money you have. It doesn't matter if you are owner or own so what does matter. What does if none of that stuff matters what does matter let's finish the verse. Let's finish the verse of Colossians chapter three verse eleven Christ is all that matters and he lives in all of us Christ is all that matters and he lives in all of us it is not about it being in or out of the of your parents faith it is not about being a barbarian It's not about about being slave or free Christ is in all and he is all and nothing else matters Christ is where we are supposed to find our identity all of those other things from the before that's just part of the story that absolutely will begin to define you into making it all but Christ is in the process of redeeming that story if you look ahead of this in collage in chapter three and you read the verses that are coming to this what you see is there is a way that leads to

death there is a there are decisions that you make and it leads to death and he lists all of these things that are happening all of these parts of these people story all of these decisions that they have made all of these defining moments in their life and he's saying that there is one way that leads the death there is one way that leads to Christ but it doesn't matter all of that stuff is not going to define you anymore because Christ is all and he is in all and he can take any of those things and bring it about for His glory you cannot stop at defining yourself by your name by your job. By what's happened to you it's part of who you are it's a part of the painting that is. You but it's not what should define you Christ is all he is in all and he will take all to define who you really are if you let him if you decide. To allow God to let him. Let the old yoke break free. And allow God to begin to define. Who you are. In Christ we are made. So what does Jesus say about us. You either need to get ready to read really fast or I mean flip in your bible really fast I'm not going to land on a long you might even need to write really fast if you want this list I'll send it to you later just shoot me an email and say you want it OK this is not an exhaustive list this is just a few of my favorite verses about what God says about his followers right people when Christ begins to define us this is what God sees when Christ actually becomes a definition of who we are this is our definition all right and this like I said it's not exhaustive these are just some of my favorites so here we go I'm new I am a new creation second Corinthians five seventeen I'm chosen God chose me first Peter two nine I'm his creation I'm not only his creation I'm his masterpiece if Eason's to ten I am under no condemnation for what has happened before Romans eight one I'm his child John one twelve I'm part of his righteousness second Corinthians five twenty one I am where God resides First Corinthians six nineteen I'm his friend John fifteen fifteen I'm his heir Romans eight seventeen not the air he breathes I'm the one who will inherit from him I am his heir H. E I R K Romans eight seventeen I am loved Romans five eight and I am created and I am the image bearer of God. Genesis one twenty seven those are just some of my favorites and let me just stop for just a second because some of you know that this is kind of a bone that I have to pick with how we've done things in the past not we but like we care. For a long time it has been taught that men are the Image of God right a man because God is Father but if you look at Genesis and you look at those verses that I'm talking about Genesis one twenty seven it says in his image he created them male and female he created them ladies you are every bit as much the image of God. As any man is. We see a much more complete picture of who God is when we look at male and female. Because we are the image bearers. The King of Kings and the Lord of lords and he created us male and female in his image just a short list of some of my favorites I could literally go on and on there's fifteen minutes left I could fill up that time with things that God says about you. But I thought I would stop here for the sake of those of you who are already bored that's not really why stop that says here's the deal Who are you what defines you when we choose Jesus the only defining characteristic that matters. Is Jesus because that's the word of God That's not Jason's opinion that's what we just read in Colossians Christ is all that matters and he is in all and through all and I want to talk to those of you who are in here who are struggling with your identity this morning. Choose to drop the. You're going to have to make that decision it's not going to just happen one day you're not going to just walk through life after after thinking about yourself in a certain way right and we've all done this at different points we've we've viewed ourselves incorrectly right everybody in here at some point time in your life has had a wrong thought about who you are every one of us has dealt with that at some point time in our life and if you walk through life with that thought for a while it's not just one day you're not going to wake up and be like oh well that was. Going to just change today just because I feel like it you have to choose to drop that yoke. And you're going to choose to replace it. With an accurate picture of God for that thing to stay off. Otherwise it's going to drop off for five or ten minutes and you're going to go back to your old habit again. Your old view of yourself. Because that's what you're used to seeing maybe that's the that law you've been force fed for decades you have to choose to drop the old. And allow God. To bring the new because Christ is all that matters and that's easy for me to say and it's really hard to walk in that day in and day out. But if you do it long enough. I guarantee you that image will be replaced and instead of seeing yourself as whatever you've allowed yourself to be identified as you will see

yourself as what you really are the image bearer the adopted heir the adopted Schild of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords with infinite value. Because he says so and it's a heavy weight in. It's just really where I was that. We were looking at all these things we're planning where to go it's really feel like this is a defining thing for this culture today. Where we draw our image from. Her so much confusion there so much misinformation there so much hurt and pain that we allow to guide our our own view of our image and set of allowing scripture to speak in the truth and if we would allow Jesus to define us I really believe. It would be a lot better off. So we're going to end the way we always do and when and with a chance for prayer again if you're a guest with us we believe you heard it during communion you've heard me reference it. Here this morning. Jesus Christ came to this earth two thousand years ago he was born as a baby. You can argue December twenty fifth it's just a day we remember all right. It's not important but that's the season we're in Jesus Christ Emmanuel God with us. Came to this earth to be with people. To walk through this life. He led us in this life. And allowed himself to be killed on a cross for you and for me that's not a unique story if Jesus Christ had just died for what he believed then. Millions of people have done that throughout history they've died for what they believe that Jesus didn't just die for what he knew it was right he died. And then he showed who he is. By rising again three days later and it's true that sacrifice and resurrection. That we can trust what he says that we can trust that he's able to do anything and that gives so much credibility and to his words and his words are there is only one way to heaven and it's through God. Jesus Christ. Is the only way to God and if you've never chosen him before we want to give you an opportunity to do that this morning maybe you're in here this morning and you've you've done this before you've chosen Jesus but you know. You know if you were sitting across from somebody and you were really to open up you would you couldn't really define yourself as living for God. You've been living for you. And this morning you want to just. Turn that arrow back to Jesus We want to give you a chance a person that's where we're at we're not going to embarrass anybody here I'm not going to call anybody up to the front for any of this part we want to pray with you so when I ask everybody to put their head down and closer as we're not going to land on either one of these three things for a long I don't like to motivate out of guilt we don't do this just to try and boost some sort of number we just believe these are the most important decisions that any person can make so if you're in here and you fall in that first group you've never chosen Jesus this morning you've never chosen him but this morning you're ready to choose Jesus this morning you're ready to say I want the forgiveness of Jesus I want to be a child of God for the very first time I want to just raise your hand want to pray with you is there anybody in here this morning that's you want to pray not going to last I'm not going to wait here long we're not going to linger super long I just want to give God a chance if you've never done this before like you to raise your hand right we're going to move on maybe you're in that second group and you've you followed Jesus before you've done all of those things you know the right answers but lately you know that it's been about you and not about God. You just want to come to Jesus and you want to just say I'm sorry lead my life like you to raise your hand is there anybody here that's you you're in that second round we've got a couple hands if you can put him down is there anybody else in here and he would just another moment so here's what we're going to do you can go and look at me I'm going to pray I don't know where you guys are out who raise your hand I don't know if you know how to pray I'm going to just pray and I would like you to repeat after me all right. It's one help you in this if you're in here and you've chosen Jesus I want to ask you to repeat after me to just take some of the edge off if you're in here and you haven't chosen Jesus and you're not ready to yet you have our permission to sit quiet we don't want to force you to do something you don't want to do and we certainly don't want you to promise things that you have no intention of keeping All right so we're going to pray together all right so by your heads. Close with me close your eyes pray with me. Jesus I know better but living for me. Now for you I'm sorry. Forgive me help me to change my thinking made to guide me G.'s a man. Those are eternally important decisions that are made this morning though and those those decisions have a significance that cannot be overstated and I want to tell you for those of you who raise your hand I'm so glad you want to point those arrows towards Jesus I'm so happy that you decided to do that if you

have questions please talk to the person who brought you. If the person who brought you doesn't have any answers come and talk to me I would love to have a conversation about some next steps and those kind of things that I just it's such an important thing and I'm so glad you decided that this morning and here's how we're going to end it's eleven fifty five All right so we're running out of time parents even if you leave right now they're practicing some of the songs for the Christmas program they're going to do in a few weeks so we're going to ask you that least wait till noon but I'm going to ask our leadership team their spouses to come back up we did this last week and I just feel like this is one of those times where I want to have people so far leadership team their spouses could come come back forward up here to the front and just sit here's the deal I know that when we're talking about something like this even if nobody comes up here many of you are dealing with this exact issue of having the wrong view of who you are in Jesus Christ and I want to have people up here to lead sheep to have them ready to pray with you if you need that all right man you could go ahead and start some music just quietly in the background I understand what this is like I understand allowing wrong things to identify who I think of myself as I know a lot of people think pastors have never really struggled with anything you know and never really gone through anything and never had to deal with any real life issues that's why we're pastors right. But this is an area that I've struggled with off and on for most of my life allowing wrong things to define my view of who I am. It's easy to do it's easy to pull your eyes off of what Jesus is saying about you and just fill in those gaps yourself maybe listening to the wrong voices letting other people do things again things happen to us so often that then we pick up that mantle and we wear that label. And what I want you to hear this morning. Is that Jesus is all that matters. In all. And he is. So you've been allowing the wrong things to define who you are. If you've been looking at yourself as somehow other than who Christ has made you to be. Don't leave this place. Without talking to Jesus this group is up here to pray with you if you want that you can come forward it would love to pray with you. If you don't need that if you just go to pray in your own seat that's fine. You don't leave this place. Without talking to Jesus this is where I. Choose to drop that whole deal. And allow Jesus to bring a new. It's so vitally important. For us to do that so I'm afraid if you're done. You can go I'm going to ask you to go out quietly do all your talking and chat out there and for your. If you just want somebody to pray with you come pray you want to pray your seat that's fine but I'm asking there not to be a lot of talking in here other than talking to Jesus. All right are the spirit. Of prayer if you want somebody to pray with you come. You're done. Go and go JESUS you're good. And I thank you. For your word. God it is so easy. To wear the wrong label it is so easy to allow the wrong things to identify. To allow our story to identify us instead of the God who wants to redeem the story. God speak. For. You or. We can trust. Him. Let's pray you need it have a great afternoon you're done.