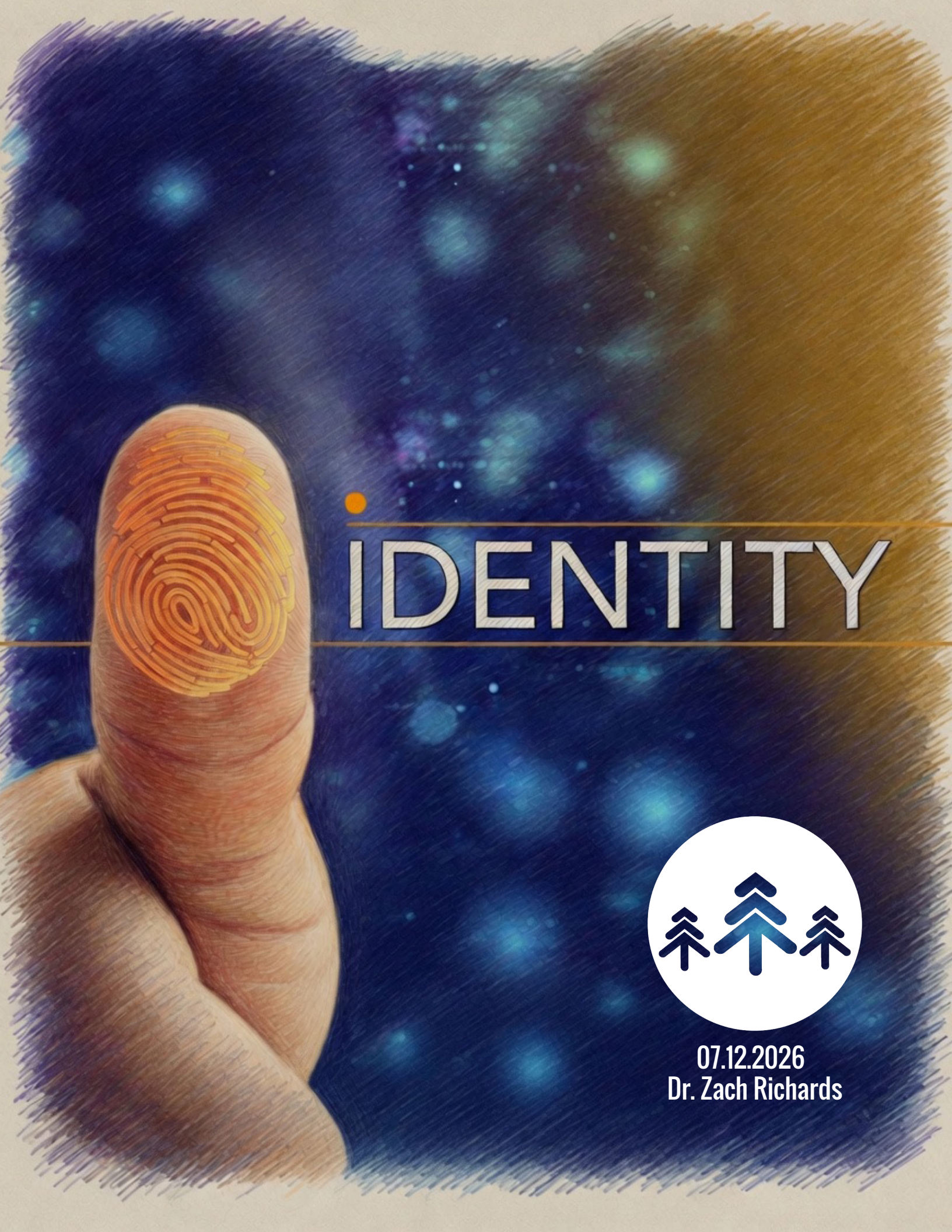


The background of the entire image is a textured, painterly representation of a cosmic scene, featuring a mix of deep blues, purples, and warm golden-browns, with numerous small, glowing blue and white specks resembling distant stars or nebulae. On the left side, a human hand is shown from the wrist up, with the index finger extended towards the center. The fingerprint on the tip of the finger is highlighted with a golden-yellow, concentric circular pattern. A thin, horizontal golden line runs across the middle of the image, passing behind the word 'IDENTITY'.

IDENTITY



07.12.2026
Dr. Zach Richards

Letters of Recommendation

2 Corinthians 3:1-6

Sermon in a Sentence

Our conduct before others either validates or invalidates our own testimony and the ministries of this church.

Question

What should we remember about our conduct before others?

I. When it comes to our testimony, seeing is believing.

- A. Paul asked the Corinthians if a letter of recommendation was necessary.
 - 1. *This was probably in reference to the "peddlers of the gospel" he mentioned earlier.*
 - 2. *This may also refer to the validity of his place among the apostles.*
- B. Proof is important when it comes to our testimony.
 - 1. *We want proof when others make claims about themselves.*
 - 2. *Our claims of being a Christian should be backed up by the witness of our life.*
 - 3. **James 2:18**
But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.
- C. Our conduct as Christians carries more weight with others than our words ever will.

II. Our conduct is important for the witness of the church as well.

- A. Paul reminded the Corinthians that they served as a validation of his ministry.
- B. Our own life says a lot about our church.
 - 1. *Our love for one another bears witness for our church.*
 - 2. *How we live is representative of one another.*
 - 3. *How we live is representative of Christ.*
- C. The range of our conduct knows no limit.

III. Our conduct is not enough; we need Christ to live through us.

- A. Paul admitted to the Corinthians that the way he lived was not enough.
- B. The adequacy of our testimony is dependent on God living through us.
 - 1. *God makes our testimony sufficient.*
 - 2. *Legalism is not only insufficient but detrimental.*
- C. Our good conduct must be determined by the leadership of the Holy Spirit.