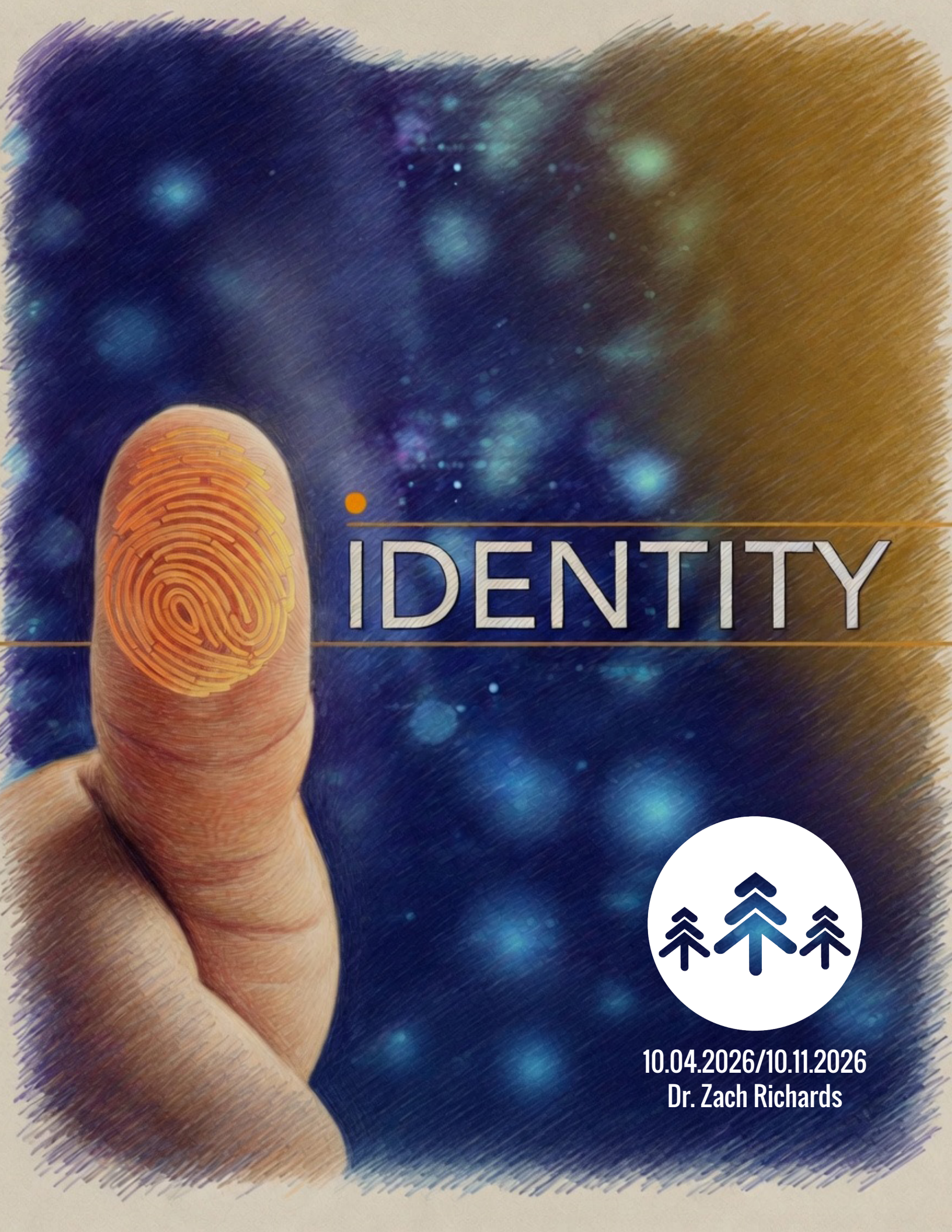


The background of the entire image is a textured, painterly representation of a cosmic scene, featuring a dark blue and purple nebula with scattered glowing blue and green points of light. On the left side, a human hand is shown from the wrist up, with the index finger extended. The fingerprint on the tip of the finger is highlighted with a golden-yellow, concentric circular pattern. A thin, horizontal orange line runs across the middle of the image, passing behind the word 'IDENTITY'.

IDENTITY



10.04.2026/10.11.2026
Dr. Zach Richards

A Genuine Generosity

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Sermon in a Sentence:

One of the best ways a Christian can strengthen his or her witness is through genuine generosity.

Question:

What does authentic generosity look like?

I. A Description of Generosity

Paul described the kind of generosity displayed by the churches of Macedonia.

In Paul's description, we see the elements of true generosity.

1. Generosity is a gift of God's grace.
2. Generosity is magnified through the circumstance.
3. Generosity is an outflow of what's inside.
4. Generosity is selfless.
5. Generosity is voluntary.
6. Generosity is enthusiastic.

Generosity is not just the act of giving; it is also the spirit in which the giving takes place.

2 Corinthians 9:7-9

7 *Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

8 *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.*

9 *As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."*

II. A Plan for Generosity

Paul then described the steps necessary for the Corinthians to complete their ministry of giving.

Paul's instructions serve as a plan for us as we seek to be generous.

- 1. We have to give ourselves to God first.*
- 2. We have to give ourselves to the ministry opportunity.*
- 3. We have to give with excellence.*

Generosity, just like any act of obedience to God, should be done intentionally and passionately.

III. An Example of Generosity

Paul reminded the Corinthians of God's generosity displayed through Christ.

- 1. The coming of Christ was a display of God's grace.*
- 2. The coming of Christ was a display of God's love.*
- 3. The coming of Christ was a display of God's selflessness.*

No person can be both selfish and Christlike.

Philippians 2:5-8

*5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,
6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.
8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

IV. A Justification for Generosity

Paul gave the Corinthians the justification that they needed in order to complete their offering.

- 1. They were motivated.*
- 2. They had the ability.*
- 3. It was a matter of cooperation.*

Our generosity should reflect the same justifications.

- 1. We should be motivated by the grace we have been shown through Christ.*
- 2. We should be motivated by the ability we have to give through Christ.*
- 3. We should be motivated by the opportunity to cooperate with God in the work He is doing.*

God promises to assist us in our efforts of Christlike generosity.

Philippians 4:19

19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

We are never more like Christ than when we are willing to give generously.