

MAIN POINT

We find our sense of identity not by digging deeper into ourselves but from an external authority—God and His Word.

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever taken a personality test (i.e., Enneagram, Myers-Briggs)? Have you ever taken a quiz on a website like Facebook or Buzzfeed that tells you something like what Lord of the Rings or Marvel character you are? If you've ever taken one of these tests or quizzes, what was it and how did it describe you?

Why do you think people are so fascinated with identifying themselves in these ways?

Do you consider those types of personality tests and self-discovery quizzes to be helpful or hurtful? Explain.

UNDERSTANDING

> READ PSALM 8:1-9 (ESV).

What is peculiar about the picture of infants triumphing over God's enemies?

Why does God use infants to triumph over His enemies? What does this teach you about God? About yourself?

What motivated David to ask "of what importance is the human race, that you should notice them?"

What evidence is there in Psalm 8 that human beings are set apart from the rest of creation?

What are some reasons why people struggle to believe that they have great significance in God's creation?

Why is it important to know that we have great significance in God's creation? What does that fact tell us about the gospel?

Who gives human beings value (v. 5)? How does God display that value to us (vv. 6-8)?

How does knowing that God has granted mankind "honor and majesty" change the way you think about the people around you?

What does the dominion God has given people tell us about Him?

Why do you think David began and ended this psalm about human dignity with a statement of praise and adoration about who God is?

Can a person truly know his or her identity without knowing who God is? Explain.

What are some ways you wrestle with your sense of identity?

How can turning to the gospel and recognizing our identity as image bearers help us fight that temptation?

> READ ECCLESIASTES 3:11 (ESV).

What does it mean that God has put eternity in our hearts?

When have you experienced a sense of eternity in your heart? Why do you think so many people resist that longing?

APPLICATION

How does knowing God has given you value and offered you redemption in Christ change the way you think about yourself? How does a broken understanding of the Imago Dei lead us to think more highly of ourselves than we ought (believing we're sufficient in and of ourselves) or more lowly than we ought (believing we're worthless)?

How could you humble yourself to serve someone this week? How might doing so point him or her to Christ?

Who in your life is difficult to love? How might considering that God has bestowed "honor and majesty" on all people help you actively love that person?

PRAY

Thank God for showing His glory in such profoundly humble ways. Thank God for giving you value and offering you redemption in Christ. Ask God to help you point others to Christ by humbly serving them like Christ has served you.

MEMORIZE

What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

—Psalm 8:4-5 (ESV)

