



Shelby Christian Church

CORE 52: NEW LENS - OUR TRUE IDENTITY

GENESIS 1:26, EPHESIANS 1, PSALM 8:4-5, PSALM 139:13-14, HEBREWS 2:6-8 * 8/31/2025

Share an example of how individualistic our culture is. What are some of the potential pitfalls of seeking our identity from a purely individualized frame of mind?

What are some of your favorite hobbies? What are some ways we tend to let our hobbies, our jobs, or even activities that fill our days define us?

UNDERSTANDING

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ GENESIS 1:26

How does knowing you are made in God's image influence the way you view yourself? How does being created in God's image reflect God's character, creativity, and authority? How does reflecting on God's image in humanity encourage humility, respect, and love for others?

Genesis 1:26 says humans are created to "rule over" the earth. What does responsible stewardship look like in today's context?

In what ways can understanding your God-given purpose shape your daily decisions and priorities?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EPHESIANS 1

Paul begins by praising God for every spiritual blessing in Christ. What blessings stand out to you in this passage?

How do adoption, redemption, and forgiveness (vv. 5-7) shape the way we understand our identity in Christ?

What does it mean that we are sealed with the Holy Spirit (vv. 13-14)? How does this give us assurance and hope?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PSALM 8:4-5

Why do you think David was amazed that God pays attention to humanity?

What does it mean that humans are made "a little lower than the heavenly beings"?

How does this passage shape the way you view human worth and dignity?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PSALM 139:13-14

How does the picture of God "knitting" us together shape your view of His care and intentionality?

What do the words “fearfully and wonderfully made” communicate about human life? When do you most struggle to see yourself as “fearfully and wonderfully made”?

How does this passage challenge the way society often defines human value?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ HEBREWS 2:6-8

In what ways does Christ’s life, death, and resurrection fulfill the purpose and authority God intended for humanity? How does this passage shape the way you view your own dignity and value in God’s eyes?

How does knowing that Jesus shared in our humanity affect your relationship with Him?

What responsibilities come with being crowned with glory and honor, as human beings created in God’s image? How might we reflect Christ’s authority and glory in our daily lives?

APPLICATION

Answer the question: "Who are you?" How much of your answer is about you as an individual, and how much is about the relationships that form you?

What are some things we could recognize and live out through our Christian community in the church? How could that change our experience with each other and with God?

What are some "normal" activities that reveal God's nature in us? Choose one that you will intentionally recognize as a spiritual activity for at least one day.

What one simple act could you practice this week to "rule" God's creation as His steward (manager) in this world.

PRAYER