

Identity Wars Study 1 – Intro to the Identity War

Who are you? Tell me about yourself?

- After telling people our name, why do we generally tell people about what we do, where we come from, what our job is, what we possess or what our hobbies and pastimes are?
- We try and make a good impression and tell them the good things about ourselves.

What are some of the things we wouldn't tell others about when we first meet them? Why not?

Two things we shouldn't talk about at parties. 1. Politics and 2. Religion

- We also wouldn't open up about our personal beliefs to someone we don't really know.
- We don't share our thoughts, feelings, weaknesses because it doesn't feel safe (because we are analyzed and judged).

We each have a Comfort zone. Safe place: Some things are too painful to bring them back to mind and talk about. My bad memories. Why should the whole world know?

At the same time we yearn for friendship and human connection. See children, when they have no friends they are miserable. That we lack this is seen in:

Statistics: Depression Jan 2020 W.H.O.

264 million people suffer from depression world wide (what about now?)

- 800,000 people die due to suicide each year: 20:1 ratio of people who unsuccessfully attempted.
- So far in 2020 as of Oct 18 – 856,315 deaths by suicide. (worldometer.com)

In Australia 1:20 children is on antidepressants as of June 2019. (The Australian.com)

Many more are in a depressed state but not diagnosed or not on medication at this stage.

Suicide – third leading cause of death in 15-19 year olds. 14th overall @ 44.4 yrs avg.

- Years of life lost 110,000 years. abs.gov.au (compare to years of life lost for corona??) based on avg 80.7 male and 84.9 female. (dying young means more years lost than dying old)

Causes of depression: conflict, disaster, violence, abuse, loss, isolation

Most vulnerable groups: refugees, migrants, indigenous, LGBTI, prisoners.

So far this year: deaths from smoking – 3,920,215; alcohol – 1,957,346

In the past families supported each other. Villagers cared for each other's families.

Today – fractured families no village mentality: every man for himself.

Woman – we don't need men or traditional families. Children are the casualties.

- People wonder where to turn for help. Everyone is too busy to help each other, so we have professionals. Doctors, GP's, psychologists are doing the job of family.

Sadly their solution is medication, not reestablishing family structure and human value.

Proverb 17:6 Children of divorce? How are they feeling? Who is caring for their needs when mum and dad are not together any more? Domestic violence – where can a person hide when not safe at home?

Underlying factor- a sense of significance!!

- Am I important to anyone? Does anyone really care about me? Am I worth anything?

The story of the Garden of Eden and the loss of identity
I can make it on my own! Really?

What was Satan really offering Adam and Eve? Independence
What is the problem with total independence? We cut ourselves off from our life Source.
- This is suicidal. Why? (Can we be independent from water, air, and oxygen?)

God is our Source of life, love, peace, hope, wisdom etc.

Cut off from this and what do we have left?

Cut off from Life Source – we have an unavoidable destiny with death
Cut off from Love Source – we have an inescapable feeling of emptiness
Cut off from Peace Source – we have constant agitation
Cut off from Hope Source – we have an inescapable sense of worthlessness
Cut off from Wisdom Source – we are left without answers

Take away all these things and what do we have left? Which way can we turn?

What is our destiny? Our destiny is directly related to our identity

The reality that we don't have life in ourselves forces us to put all our eggs in the basket of this life.
- The feeling of worthlessness and the pressure to prove yourself are principles God never intended in His kingdom for us.
- How can we find the value we have lost?

We will only find it when we find the Source of our true value, our Father in Heaven.