

Helping Students Develop a Biblical Identity

Eran Holt & Jared Berry

Summary

This video discusses the importance of helping youth develop a biblical identity. The speakers, Eran and Jared, explore the concept of identity from a biblical perspective, highlighting how humanity has lost its true identity due to sin, leading to a constant pursuit of finding identity in other things. They emphasize that the gospel offers a restored identity in Christ, which is received rather than achieved. The conversation provides practical tips for youth leaders to address identity issues with their students, encouraging them to recognize where students seek identity and guiding them toward the gospel as the trustworthy source of identity.

Main Points

Identity Lost

The speakers discuss how sin has caused humanity to lose its true identity, creating an identity void and crisis. They explain that every person desperately searches for identity, often pursuing things they believe will bring happiness and fulfillment. This pursuit becomes life's mission as people try to find identity in various idols and cultural influences.

Mission to Find Identity

The speakers elaborate on the idea that humanity's mission in life becomes finding identity in other things, such as wealth, possessions, relationships, or achievements. However, this pursuit is ultimately selfish and never truly satisfies, as people fear losing what they have attained. Eran and Jared emphasize that this cycle of seeking identity in temporary sources is a common struggle for all people, including youth.

Identity Restored in Christ

The speakers present the gospel as the solution to the identity crisis, offering a restored identity that is received, not achieved. They explain that in Christ, individuals receive a new identity that cannot be earned or lost, freeing them from the constant pursuit of self-worth. This identity is rooted in the work of Christ and imparts a sense of belonging and value while also fostering humility. The speakers contrast this with the cultural message of achieving identity through personal efforts.

Practical Tips for Youth Leaders

The speakers provide practical advice for youth leaders addressing identity issues with their students. They suggest identifying where students seek identity (e.g., sexuality, relationships) and helping them understand why those sources are inadequate. The goal is to guide students towards the gospel as the trustworthy source of identity, showing them how it differs from the world's perspective and can satisfy their deepest longings.

Action Items

- Identify where students seek identity (e.g., sexuality, relationships, achievements) and help them understand why those sources are inadequate and cannot provide lasting fulfillment.
- Guide students towards understanding the biblical concept of identity being restored and received through Christ, contrasting it with the cultural message of achieving identity through personal efforts.
- Emphasize that the gospel offers a new identity that cannot be earned or lost, freeing individuals from the constant pursuit of self-worth and fostering a sense of belonging and value.
- Please encourage students to recognize the universal struggle of finding identity, helping them understand that their experiences are shared by all of humanity and rooted in the effects of sin.
- Provide practical examples and illustrations to help students grasp the concept of a restored identity in Christ and its implications for their lives and relationships.