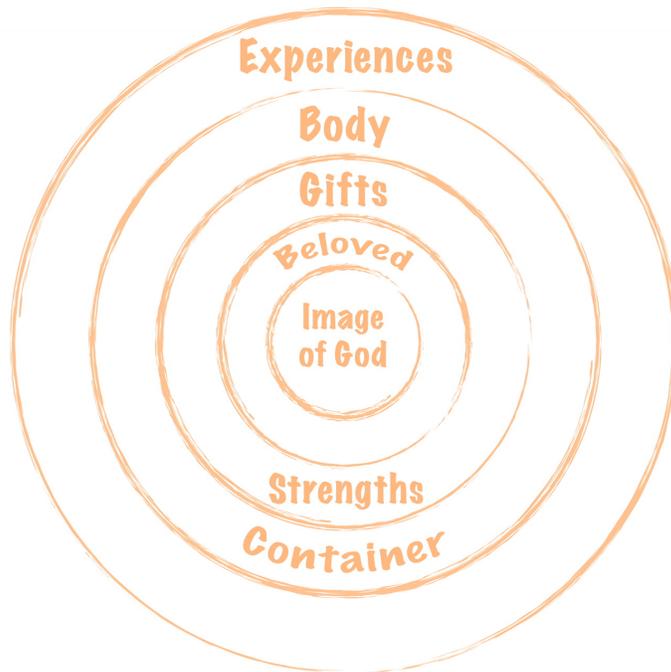


I. True Identity
Identity Doodle



False Self

Addiction
Sexuality
Materialism
Perfectionist
Relationships

II. Two Prevalent False Identities

A. Sexuality

1. Straight, gay, trans, pan, etc. — not just behavior but identity
2. There is definitive God-honoring sexual behavior
 - a. Marriage, man and woman
 - b. But, we can't change behavior until we live in the truth of who we really are.
 - c. The church cannot be silent because culture will reinforce these false identities.

B. Addiction

1. What they are not: a moral weakness; lack of willpower; cowardly inability to face life; or a physical disease.
2. "Addictions are about what we are running from. Scratch the surface of an addict and you will find the feeling of unworthiness, a feeling of being unloved, shame, fears of intimacy, fear of failing and even fear of succeeding."
3. Addiction can be defined as a disease of the soul which leads to the compulsive pursuit of reward or relief. It says that my raw material is not enough.
4. Examples: drugs & alcohol; perfectionism; materialism; relationships; sexuality
5. The opposite of addiction is not sobriety but connection to God and what He says is true. Your identity is that you bear the image of God and you are His beloved.

III. Engaging Culture

- A. Church vs. homosexuality and losing influence
- B. Do you approach people by guiding them to their identity or by trying to fix their behaviors?
- C. You cannot legislate loving people. Loving people for who they are at their core is a personal investment one person at a time and takes a while ([petition here](#))
- D. What are our motives? "Stop doing what makes me uncomfortable" or "I want you to know who you truly are, that you are created bearing God's image and that you are His beloved."

IV. Bottom line/Take-aways

- A. Everyone bears God's image and is deeply loved by God — that defines every human being.
- B. In order to see people that way, we first need to recognize that in ourselves.
- C. We are called to connect people to God and who He created them to be.
- D. You and I will never be invited to corporate headquarters to weigh in on bathroom policy or stand in front of Congress to direct them on the definition of marriage. But, we will be sitting across the table from someone who doesn't know who they are.