DISCOVERING THE REAL YOU
Finding Your Identity

I. Jeremiah 15:19 - The title of my message is "Discovering the Real You." Another title could be "Seeing that which is precious in the midst of that which is worthless."

- I want to help you understand that there is more to your life than you can see.
- I also want to help you answer the question "Who Am I?"

A. WHO AM I? - I've been searching for an answer to this.

1. Am I the person I see?
2. Am I the person others see?
3. A combination of both?
4. Am I the person God sees?

B. WHAT DOES GOD SEE?

1. You were created to become like Christ.
   a. Genesis 1:26 - “Then God said, "And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over life.”” TEV
   b. Genesis 1:26 - “Then God said, Let us make people in our image, to be like ourselves. They will be masters over all life.” NLT

2. We don’t know all the phrase covers, but we do know some of the aspects that it includes: Like God we are Spiritual beings.
   a. Which means that we are human beings presently having a spiritual experience, we are in fact Spiritual beings presently having a human experience.
   b. Like God we are intellectual, we can think, reason, and solve problems.
   c. Like God we are relational, we can give and receive love.
   d. Like God we have a moral consciousness, we can discern right from wrong, which makes us accountable to God.

3. As spiritual beings we are immortal and will outlast our earthly bodies.
   Life is not all there is. Psalm 119:19 - “I am here on earth for just a little while.”
   a. This life is just the dress rehearsal before the real production.
   b. It is the practice workout before the actual game.
   c. The purpose of this life is serve as preparation for the next.

4. You have an inborn instinct for immortality.
   a. The reason we feel we should live forever is that God wired our brains with that desire.
b. Eccl 3:11 - “He has planted eternity in the human heart.”
c. The Hebrew word for “eternity” is “`olam” which means “continuous existence” or “perpetual life.”

5. There are eternal consequences to everything you do on earth.
   a. Every act of your life strikes some chord that will vibrate in eternity.
   b. In the Movie Gladiator - “what we do in life echoes in eternity.
   c. The deeds of this life are the destiny of the next life.

6. In order to keep us from becoming too attached to earth.
   a. God allows us to feel a significant amount of discontent and dissatisfaction in life.
   b. God has given us longings that will never be fulfilled on this side of eternity.
   c. We are not completely happy here because we are not suppose to be.

   1) A fish will never be happy living on land, because it was made for water.
   2) An eagle could never feel satisfied if it wasn’t allowed to fly, it was made for the air.

   d. As a fish was made for water, and the eagle was made for the air, you were made for eternity.
   e. At death you don’t leave home, you go home.

II. Colossians 1:16 - We were made by Him and for Him.

   A. What does it mean to be created for something?

   1. If you use things for something other than what they we created for, for any prolong period of time you will destroy them.

   2. Romans 3:23 - Sin is simply missing the mark.
      a. Sin is wrong because it is wrong for you.
      b. Sin is bad because it is bad for you.
      c. God doesn’t punish sin, He doesn’t have to, sin brings it’s own punishment.
      Proverbs 1:16-19
      d. Sin is packaged with two things:

          1) Temporary pleasure - Hebrews 11:25  2) Enduring punishment

   B. Genesis 1:26-27 - God gave man dominion over everything except Himself.
      Jeremiah 10:23 - “LORD, I know that no one is the master of his own destiny; no person has control over his own life.” TEV  “It’s not in a man to direct his own steps.” NIV

      1. Genesis 2:15-17 - Why would eating from this tree produce death.
2. Genesis 3:1-8 - Contained in this passage are four things that caused Adam and Eve to have an “eye opening experience.”

a. Verse 4 - Satan’s timeless and eternal lie - “you’ll not surely die.”

1) You won’t have to suffer the consequences of your actions.

- Alcohol: A mood Elevator
- Drugs: Make you feel alive while they slowly produce death
- Sex: unwanted pregnancies, VD, Aids

2) This lie is aided by the fact that the sentence is quickly carried out - Ecc 8:11.

b. Verse 5 - That God through morality is trying to keep something good from you.

1) That morality is restricting and immorality is freeing.

- In the first part of this century morality caused this nation to be blessed
- In the 2nd part of this century immorality has caused this nation to be cursed
  * Cursed with the highest crime rate in the world
  * Cursed with the biggest prison population in the world
  * Cursed with the highest divorce rate in the world
  * Cursed with the highest rate of illegitimate children in the world.

2) That immorality will make you God like. It won’t, it will make you like an animal.

c. Verse 6 - If Satan can get us to listen to those two lies: Then we will start making decisions based on what we know and on what we feel.

d. Verse 7 - They had an “eye opening experience”

1) They discover that what looked good - really wasn’t good.
2) That it wasn’t what they thought it would be - it never is.
3) “Eye opening experiences” are always a little too late and always cost too much.
4) On July 26, 1972, my eyes were opened. But it was way too late and it cost way too much.

3. Most “eye opening experiences” you can recover from and learn from.

a. But there is coming a day when everyone eyes will be opened. But for many it will be a little too late and it will cost way too much.

b. Phil 2:10-11 - “And so, in honor of the name of Jesus all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will fall on their knees, and all will openly proclaim that
Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” TEV