

Sermon Title: “I Am Created”

Speaker: Pastor Ed Anderson

Introduction:

- Story of Lea Salonga: Illustrates a personal search for identity and meaning.
- Cultural Context: Identity and existential crises are on the rise, especially in the aftermath of COVID-19, natural disasters, and the pervasive influence of social media.
- Statistics:
 - 63% of people aged 18–34 struggle with finding life purpose.
 - 37% of teenagers face identity issues; this is now affecting adults and the elderly.
- Key Thought: Identity crises are a tool used by the enemy of God to sow confusion and despair.

Part 1: The Search for God, Purpose, and Meaning

Scripture Focus:

1. Genesis 1:27 – “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”
 - Foundation of identity: Created in God’s image.
2. Jeremiah 29:11 – “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”
 - God’s plan brings hope and direction.
3. Ephesians 2:10 – “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
 - Each person has a unique purpose.

Part 2: Understanding Existential and Identity Crises

Definitions:

- Existential Crisis: Questioning the meaning, purpose, or value of life. Often occurs during major life transitions or traumatic experiences.
- Identity Crisis: Coined by Erik Erikson, this is a period of uncertainty about one’s identity, often associated with adolescence or young adulthood.

Biblical Solutions:

1. Community & Family Support
 - Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 – “Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.”
 - The importance of community in overcoming struggles.
2. Purpose-Driven Living

- Colossians 3:23-24 – “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”
 - Living with intention and focus on God’s calling.
3. Spiritual Support
- Hebrews 10:24-25 – “Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.”
 - Importance of staying connected to spiritual practices and fellowship.

Part 3: Self-Reflection and God’s Guidance

Key Actions:

Self-Reflection and Prayer

- Psalm 139:23-24 – “Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.”
- Regular self-examination invites God to guide your path.
- Story of Martin Luther King: Illustrates Self-Reflection and Prayer.

Trust in God’s Presence

- Deuteronomy 31:6 – “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Assurance that God is always with you.

- Proverbs 3:5-6 – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your path straight.”
- Trusting God provides clarity and direction.

Conclusion: Foundational Truths

1. Your Identity is Founded in the Fact That God CREATED You!
 - You are uniquely made, loved, and valued by God.
2. Your Identity is Founded in the Fact That God Has a PURPOSE for You!
 - Every individual has a divine purpose and calling.
 - Story of Manny Pacquiao: Illustrates a conversion after finding God.

Call to Action:

- Reflect on your identity and purpose in Christ.
- Embrace God’s plans for your life with courage and faith.
- Stay connected to community and spiritual practices to navigate crises.