



# IDENTITY CRISIS

MARK 7:1-23

MESSAGE BY JOSH LAKE

## Identity Crisis - August 2021

Who are you? Where does your purpose and identity flow from? Does your primary framework for understanding who you are rest upon your vocation? Your job? Perhaps you think of your identity mainly in terms of your relationship to others. Vocations and relationships are good gifts from the Lord, but they are a poor foundation upon which to build an identity and a life. Because we do not rule the world around us, vocations come and go. Relationships change. Long-held dreams shatter and new desires take their place. In response to the uncertainty of this life, the Apostle James reminds us, “we are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes”, and that we ought to hold our plans tentatively saying we will do this or that, “If the Lord wills.”

The Heidelberg Catechism, an excellent summary of the faith from the Protestant Reformation, begins with this question:

*What is your only comfort in life and in death?*

*That I am not my own*

*but belong both body and soul*

*in life and death*

*unto my faithful savior Jesus Christ.*

The Reformers lived in a day and age when death was an ever present reality. Child mortality rates were, to our minds, inconceivable. The black death was still rearing its ugly head across Europe. Every day, they were fully aware, life and death hung in the balance. The urgency of life and death, and the hope found only in Christ were not merely academic, theological concerns. They were immediate and intimate pastoral necessities. So, in the face of the cruel reality of the fall and death, Christians had to know who they were, and whose they were.

So, who are you?

- How has your life been marked by an identity rooted in Christ? An identity rooted in the world?
- How has God used the challenging circumstances of life to inform and reshape your identity?
- Have you faced the certainty that you will die? What is your comfort and hope in death?

Music to Live By

Christ Our Hope in Life and Death - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oibli1rz7mw>

