

WHOSE VOICE IS LOUDER?

People are constantly being shaped in their identity by the world around them. As followers of Jesus there should be a different and louder voice than the world around us that shapes our identity. Our identity and the identity of the emerging generations should come from God. How is it that we can ensure that God's voice is louder than the world's when it comes to the formation of our identity?

We have the opportunity in every moment to nurture who God says we are. But are we listening?

Holy Spirit is nurturing who God says we are – this is our true identity. Unfortunately the enemy is trying very hard to kill, steal and destroy the destiny of so many of our emerging generations by creating identity confusion.

Whose voice is louder?

We live in a world with an ever-evolving landscape of what forms our sense of identity. However, from a Christian worldview we believe that our identity is formed first and foremost within our relationship with God.

God has created each person with intent, with a purpose and in the image of Himself.

Psalm 139

For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.

¹ You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.

² You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

³ You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

⁴ Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"

¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

¹³ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—when I awake, I am still with you.

¹⁹ If only you, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!

²⁰ They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name.

²¹ Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?

²² I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies.

²³ Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Counterfeit Identity

Satan only has a few tricks and one is to create a counterfeit of what God is doing.

The devil will always try and make us look to the world to define who we are rather than our creator. He will use our circumstances or situations to lie to us. Sometimes he will use those around us to lie to us, whether they mean to or not.

But God knows us and sees us and He will use Holy Spirit to speak truth through our circumstances and situations and through those around us. God will go before us, behind us. He is hemming us in.

Holy Spirit at Work

Holy Spirit is always at work, making sure we can hear God louder than the world, but we must be listening to what He says and choose to believe in God's truth.

Holy Spirit nurtures an identity in us that equips us to walk out our calling.

No matter what you are going through, what others say about you, God knows who you are and wants to bring you into all He knows you can be.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you feel you know who God says you are?
2. When you read Psalm 139, are there any parts that you feel uncomfortable with or feel like you don't quite believe to be true about yourself?
3. What has God placed at your inmost being?
4. Do you think it is wonderfully made? Why or why not?
5. Have you had experiences that might have shaped your identity, or brought it under attack?
6. Can you recognise any lies you might be speaking over yourself? Or that others might have spoken over you either intentionally or unintentionally?
7. What about others? Are you partnering with God when you speak about others?
8. Take a moment now to ask God to reveal the truth to you. If you recognise a lie you have been believing, ask God to show you the truth.