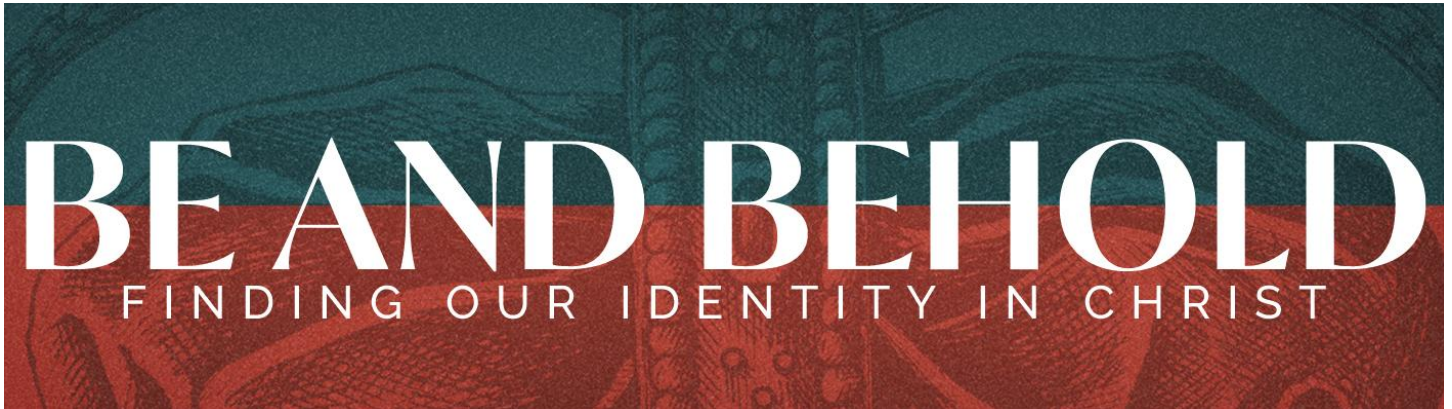


Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

Date 8/23/26 Bryce Taylor

Watch the sermon at manheimbic.org/sermon.



BIBLE PASSAGES

Eph 1:3-6 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us^[a] for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved."

2 Cor. 5:11-19 ¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.^[a] The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling^[b] the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Others: Psalm 139:1-9, Luke 10:25-37

Connect: Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, and take time to fellowship.

Care:

Carry each other's burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Pray together.

Challenge:

1. After reading through 2 Corinthians 5:11-19 what are some reflections you have? What does this scripture tell you about God, and what does it tell you about you?
2. In 2 Corinthians 5:16, Paul says that from now on we regard no one from a "worldly point of view." What would you identify as something that gets in the way of that for you (history, hurt, political views, status, appearance, lifestyle choices, unforgiveness)?
3. In Psalm 139 we see a reflection on God as creator which is helpful to consider as we think about our view of others including those who frustrate or oppose us— all of us were intricately knitted together by God with purpose, how might this shift our perspective?
4. Have you adopted a practice for helping you view others in a Christ-like way? Something personal or helpful that you could share with the group? Have you witnessed something that inspired you or your family to change the way you view others, that maybe helped you be more empathetic or gracious?
5. 2 Cor. 5:14-15 "Christ's love compels us to no longer live for ourselves." Is there a person or a group you tend to overlook or avoid due to busyness, self-preservation, or comfort? Maybe today you are just admitting you need help or prayer for patience, whatever it is, what is one practical step you can take this week to build a relational bridge with them?

In light of 2 Cor 5:18-19 take a moment to pray for us as a church to pick up this mission to bring reconciliation.

Clarify:

Does anyone need clarity on something? Are there any big God questions you are wrestling with?

Celebrate:

Celebrate life's successes and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to brag about God.

KEY TAKEAWAYS