

**Hope Presbyterian Church
Sermon-Based Bible Study Group**



October 13, 2024

“Identity” - #6 in the series *In Good Faith: Our Love Is Our Witness*

Texts Referenced (NIV and MSG): Matthew 5:3-12, 2 Corinthians 5:16-17

1. What stood out to you about the message?
2. Consider the meaning of identity—the set of qualities, beliefs, personality traits, appearance, and/or expressions that characterize a person or a group.
 - What do you think has most strongly shaped your identity?
 - What does it mean to have an “identity crisis,” and what can cause it?
3. **Read Matthew 5: 3-10.**

For many, Jesus’ statements about what it means to be blessed go against conventional wisdom.

 - Which of these beatitudes seems particularly counterintuitive to you?
 - Have you ever been blessed by being in a very difficult situation? What happened?
4. **Read Matthew 5:11-12.**

Jesus acknowledges situations where others actively oppose us or attack our character.

 - Has this ever happened to you, and if so, did any good - a blessing - come from it?
 - How do situations like this affect how we think about our identity?
5. **Read 2 Corinthians 5: 16-17.**
 - Why might Paul and others initially have judged Jesus from a worldly point of view?
 - How can we learn to view others from a perspective of simplicity, hopefulness, humility, and compassion?
6. How can we pray for you?