

The Sickness Unto Death SK

Identity Formation/Life Under the Sun/Religious Privilege

Jer 9:21-26, Ecc 2:9-26, (1-8)

March 28,2021, Chapel Bible Study

Background: We live in a fragmented society. There is no consensus on big questions. Hostility toward people of faith is increasing. In such a society identity is no longer assigned.

- I. How are identities currently formed?
 - a. In v 23 “hallelu” =praise, boast, glory. KJV
 - b. “I am somebody because I have _____!”
- II. Why does this method of identity formation lead to nausea or sickness?
 - a. V 21 is a prediction.
 - b. More and more power is sought because “applause” or acclaim is never permanent. 13-15:30.
- III. What is the cure?
 - a. The solution is to tie your identity to the covenantal love of God.
 - b. This does not depend on your performance. 18:30-23,
 - c. Increasing self-esteem or lowering esteem is not effective.
 - d. For Paul only the Lord’s opinion counted. 1 Cor 4:3-5, Gal 6:14. 31:30-33.
- IV. Message of Ecclesiastes is the same from the professor.
 - a. He presents a thought experiment on how to look at life.
 - b. Applause/acclaim is as fleeting as reaching out for the wind.