

Genesis: Back to Authenticity  
A New Name (Part 2 of *Wrestling with God*)  
Genesis 32-35

It seems that now more than ever, our culture is confused about identity. We think that because we once were addicts, we must identify always as addicts. We think that gender identity is a social construct rather than a biological one. We are now seeing claims that ethnicity is something that can be revoked if one's individual understanding of their ethnic identity doesn't fit the progressive narrative or politics of others in the same ethnic group. Ethnicity has now become a social or political construct used to advance liberal agendas or to gain economic or political advantage.

From Genesis 32 (*Wrestling with God*, Sept 13)

1. Fear makes us worst-case-scenario people.
2. God meets us in order to move us.
  
3. Fear makes us forget our identity in Christ.
  
4. Delayed obedience has devastating consequences.
  
5. By God's mercy, we are invited to come home.
  
6. By God's grace, we are reminded of our new identity.

Jacob is able to walk freely in the land of the promise because the God who made that promise had become well-known among the people around them. That is our mission. 2 Corinthians 5:18 says that God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. We are ambassadors for Christ, representing the king and His kingdom in this world. We are saved and reconciled to God so that we can make much of Jesus. We are to make much of Jesus individually through obedience to His commands and the proclamation of His gospel. As a church, we make much of Jesus through worship and mission.