**IDENTITY INC:**

*JEKYLL AND HYDE*

1. When you describe your loved ones to others, what kind of words do you use? Try it out. Think of a loved one and pretend you're describing him/her to someone who has never met him/her. For extra credit :), actually take time to write it out.
2. Dion Garrett talked about the difference between an inherited identity vs. an acquired identity. The terms were inspired by a podcast he was listening to by Dr. Barry Schwartz, who said, “In generations past, “who you were” was something that was inherited. You couldn’t do anything about it! You might spend the rest of your life trying to free yourself from whatever station you were born into.  Now [who you are] is an acquired set of characteristics. The good news is, you’re free to invent yourself.  And bad news is that you’re free to invent yourself!” How do you understand the difference between an inherited and acquired identity?
3. Look/think back on the words you used to describe your loved one. Which parts of your descriptions would be considered acquired (earned, achieved) and which would be more inherited?
4. This week's message focused on the struggle the Apostle Paul had as he tried to live out his life of faith. To see the struggle clearly read Romans 7:15. You can read the next few verses after it too. Think of a time when you felt a similar kind of frustration and hopelessness with yourself. What do you do when you find yourself in this situation?
5. If our view of ourselves is based on our actions, achievements, or acquisitions (like Paul's early view of himself in Philippians 3:4-9), why might that leave us with a vulnerable and unstable sense of identity?
6. Paul eventually says that his undesirable actions are not "him" but "the sin within" him (see Romans 7:17 and 7:20). How do you see this as a helpful distinction for maintaining a stable identity—that we are not the sin that lives inside of us? How might this explanation be dangerous and misconstrued?
7. At the end of the message, Dion Garrett came back around to say that in Christ, we do in fact have an identity that is inherited rather than acquired. Can you find a scriptural basis for such a claim?