



ID & ME

WHO GOD CALLS US TO BE

LESSON ONE

Identity Conflicts

Which of these answers reveals the most about people?

If you wanted to know someone well, which of these questions would you ask?

Have you ever heard of an
existential crisis?

What kind of conflict is that?

When is it good for someone to adapt to their environment?

And what kinds of changes or adaptations are bad?

The Core of Our Identity

What do you think it means to be made in
God's image?

What is this image?

The Core of Our Identity

The Perfect Image

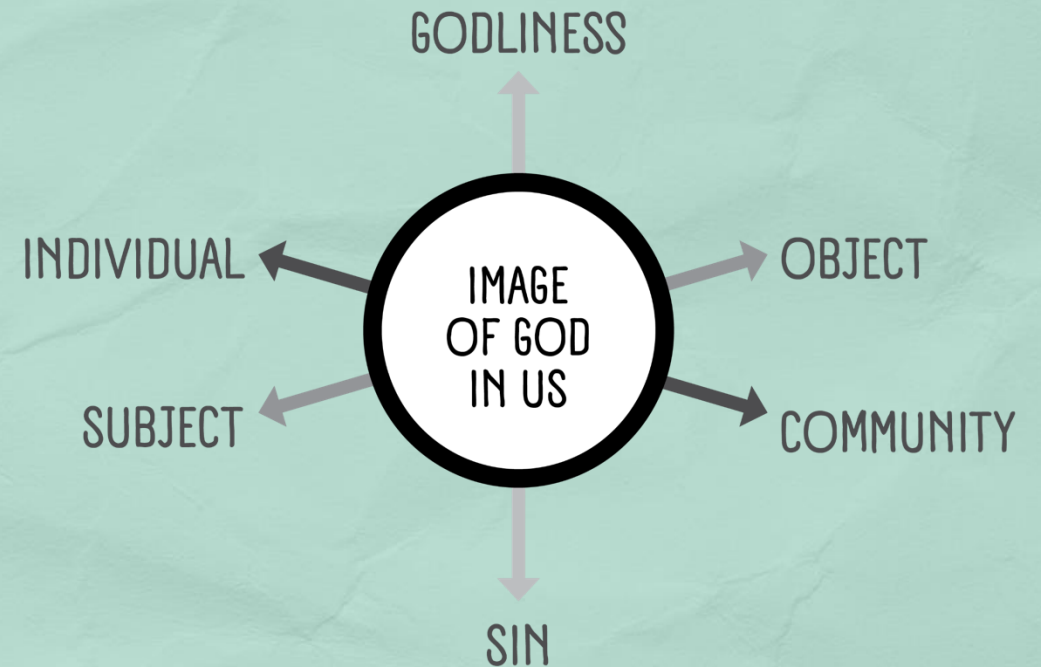
So if we should try to reflect God and respect His image in other people, how do we know what to do?

How do we bear His image better?

The Perfect Image

The Three Tensions

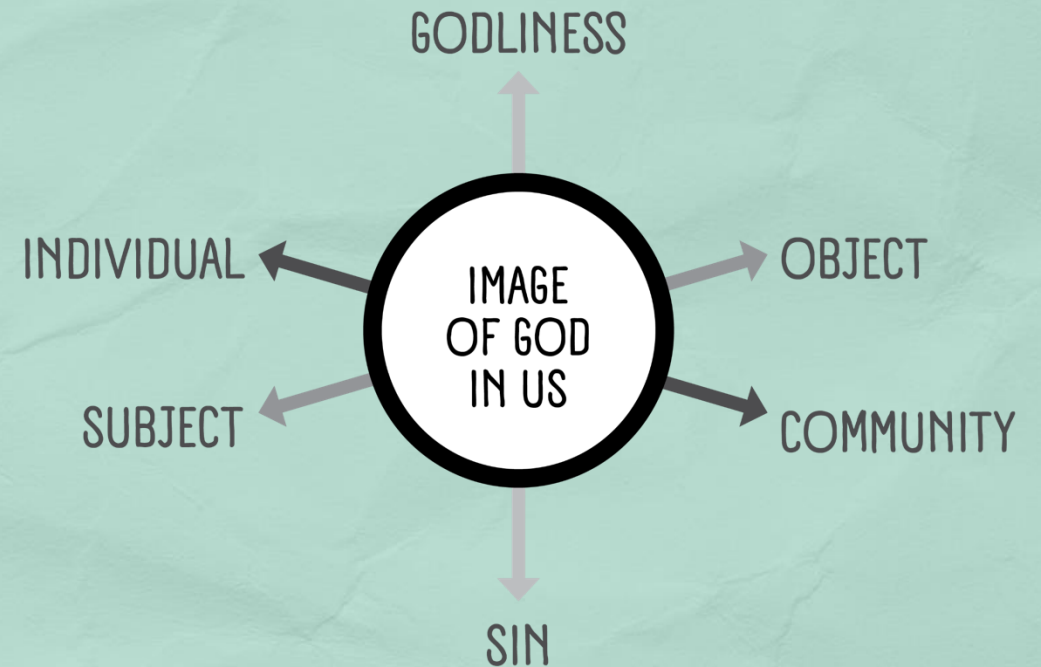
- Tension 1:
Christlikeness vs. Sin
- Tension 2:
Subject vs. Object



What can happen if people lean too far toward the subjective or objective?

The Three Tensions

- Tension 1:
Christlikeness vs. Sin
- Tension 2:
Subject vs. Object
- Tension 3:
Individual vs. Community



Conclusion



PositiveAction
FOR CHRIST

LESSON TWO

**Does It Matter What
Others Think of Us?**

We should not shape our identity to meet the expectations of others.

- People cannot see who we are on the inside.

People's expectations change
and contradict.

Our outer characteristics are unreliable, and they will change over time.

We may lose our sense of self if we try to meet others' expectations.

Character is more important than popularity
or acceptance.

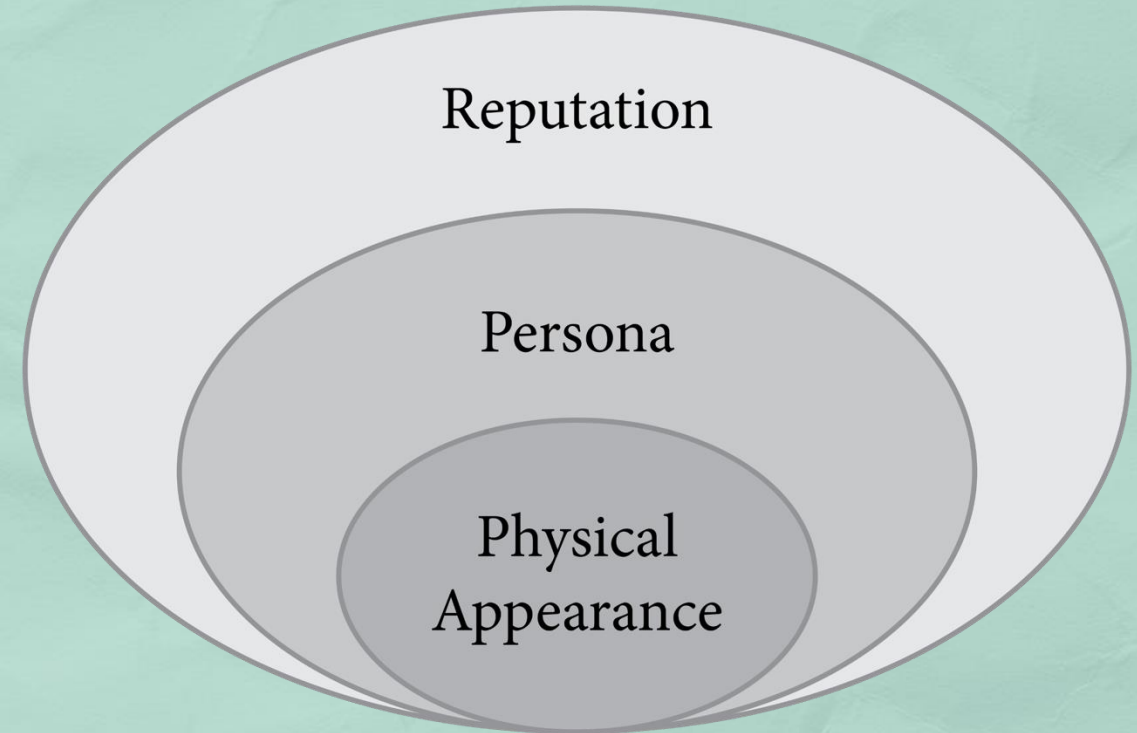
Why would we ever think that anyone else's opinion of us could be more important than God's?

Character is more important than popularity or acceptance.

- God's values are most important because of who He is.
- God loves unconditionally.

We can show love by the way we present ourselves.

- We can manage our physical appearance.



How do we know what is appropriate dress for the setting we're in?

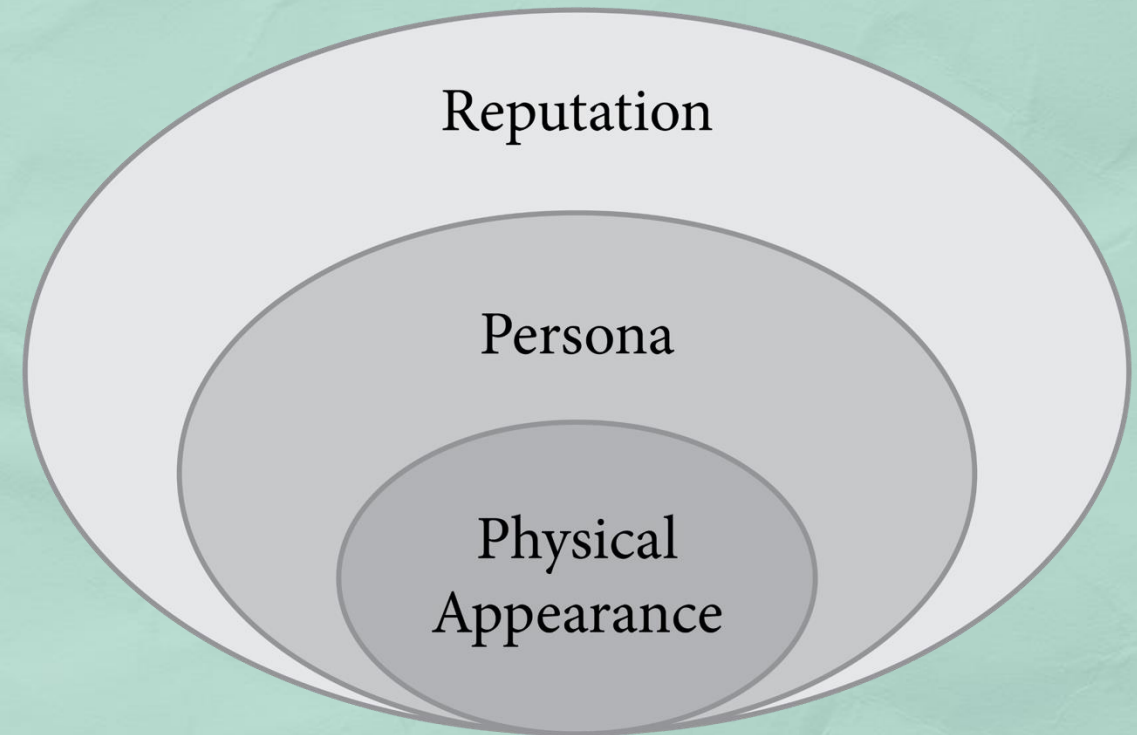
Would it be wrong to wear a tuxedo to church?

What about wearing pajamas to a funeral?

What principles do we follow?

We can show love by the way we present ourselves.

- We can manage our physical appearance.
- We can manage our persona.



Why do people act differently online or on social media than they do in person?

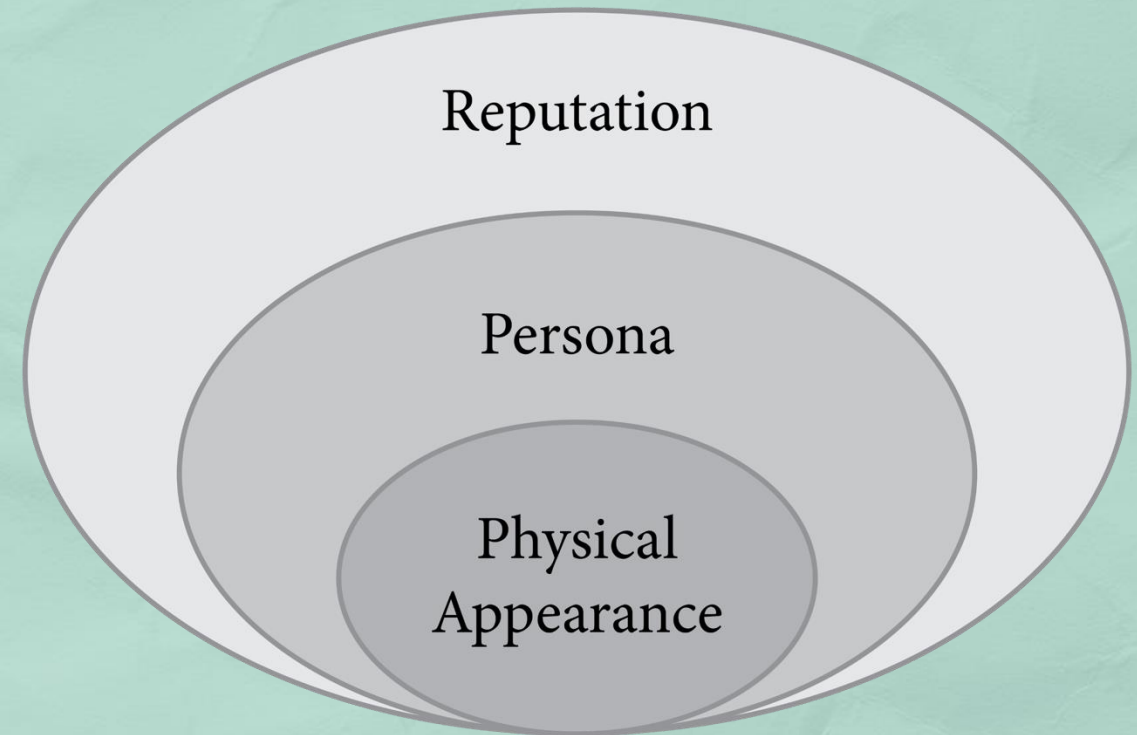
Is it OK to have a persona online that's different from real life?

What differences are understandable—and what differences go too far?

What parts of social media should we view with doubt?

We can show love by the way we present ourselves.

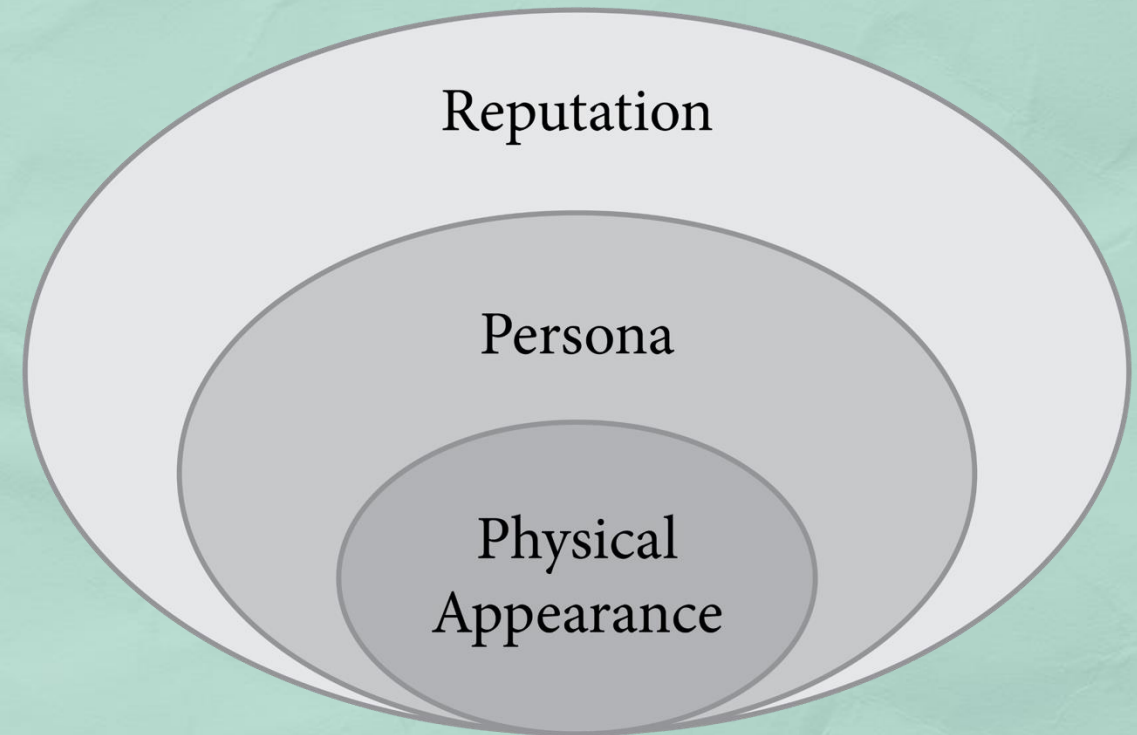
- We can manage our physical appearance.
- We can manage our persona.
- We can steward our reputation.



What are some possible benefits of having a good reputation?

We can show love by the way we present ourselves.

- We can manage our physical appearance.
- We can manage our persona.
- We can steward our reputation.



Conclusion



PositiveAction
FOR CHRIST

LESSON THREE

Our Background and Identity

What unique traditions or customs does your family observe during a holiday?

Our Background Influences

- There are certain parts of ourselves we cannot change.
 - Ethnicity
 - Family of Origin

Not everyone belongs to a family that serves God together. Where else can a believer find belonging?

Our Background Influences

- There are certain parts of ourselves we cannot change.
 - Ethnicity
 - Family of Origin
 - Culture

What different things are part of our culture?

Our Background Influences

- There are certain parts of ourselves we cannot change.
 - Ethnicity
 - Family of Origin
 - Culture
- Background influences don't dictate our future.
- Wisdom helps us discern between what we can control and what we can't.

How did family background affect people in Scripture?

- Moses' ethnicity was Hebrew, but his culture was Egyptian.
- Moses made wrong choices.
- Moses moved and found a new family.

What's more important than our
family background?

Conclusion



PositiveAction
FOR CHRIST

LESSON FOUR

Sex, Gender, and Identity

Gender and the Beginning

- Sex is a category.

In what ways can men specifically help women?

In what ways can women specifically help men?

Gender and the Beginning

- Sex is a category.
- Gender is an expression.

So what sorts of things fall into this concept of gender?

Think about different jobs traditionally held by men or women—or differences in fashion, activities, or hobbies.

- How have these changed, historically?
- What has stayed the same?
- When do people tolerate exceptions to the norm?

Gender and the Fall

Gender and the Gospel

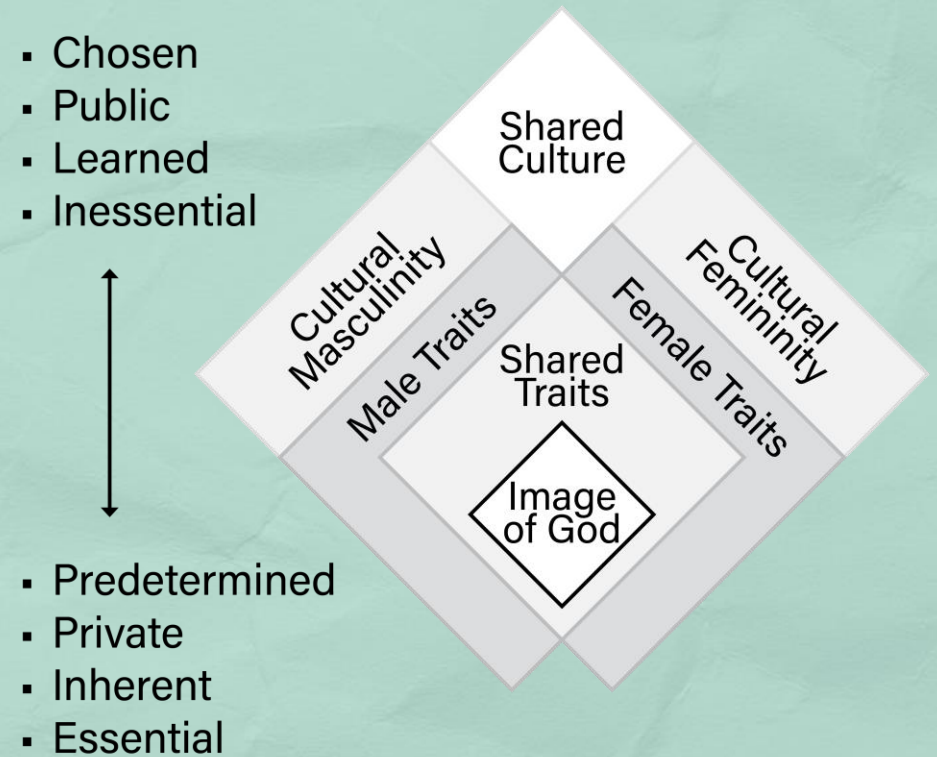
- Our differences are still valuable.
- Our similarities outweigh our differences.

Can men learn from women in Scripture?

Can women learn from men?

Gender and the Gospel

- Our differences are still valuable.
- Our similarities outweigh our differences.
- Cultural expectations still present a challenge.



Can you think of anyone else in the Bible who perhaps stepped outside of gender roles?

How much should we follow or respect our culture's expectations for our given sex?

What principle should guide us?

Conclusion



PositiveAction
FOR CHRIST

LESSON FIVE

Broader Community and Our Identity

What are some examples of modern-day national and ethnic communities?

What about religious communities?

Are there other types of communities that are common today?

What are some groups or clubs that you belong to?

Our Need for Community

Guidelines for Choosing Community

If a community forms around a morally neutral, shared interest—like cross-country skiing or the 1965 Ford Mustang—is that a good or bad thing?

How can you decide?

Don't let communities define your
entire identity.

What are some drawbacks to our earthly communities?

Don't let communities define your entire identity.

- Earthly communities are temporary.
- Earthly communities may lead to division and isolation.
- Earthly communities change.

Remember your most important Community.

- Our citizenship is spiritual.
- We are ambassadors for Christ.
- We can fellowship with a community of believers.

Conclusion



PositiveAction
FOR CHRIST