



Sermon Notes: Duty or Desire

	<u>Traditional</u>	<u>Modern</u>
Standards/Values:	External	Internal
Highest good:	Honor	Individuality
What gives:	You sacrifice	Society sacrifices
Driven by:	Duty	Desire
Argumentation:	With self	With society
Decisive Validator:	Society	Self

Observations from The Parable of The Prodigal Sons:

1. Both sons based their identity on what they achieved.
2. Seeking your identity in duty and seeking your identity in desire are just two different ways of avoiding the grace of God.
3. The prodigal assumed the way to repent was to exchange a modern identity for a traditional one.
4. Neither son had to do anything to earn their father's love.
5. Your true identity is received as a free gift of God's grace.



Gospel Applications: Duty or Desire

1. How have you intentionally chosen to see yourself differently this week in light of our introduction to identity? What one self-discovery was most helpful to you this week?
2. Now that you know the basics of the Traditional and Modern Identities, give some examples of where/how you see these playing out around you.
3. What do you think are the greatest strengths and weaknesses of the Traditional and Modern Identities?
4. Urban America is rapidly and thoroughly modernizing its identity. What are some cultural impacts of this shift? What things are becoming less important/valued? What things are becoming more important/valued?
5. Would you say you find your worth more in a Traditional Identity or a Modern Identity? Do you seek validation through doing your duty or through chasing your own dreams and desires?
6. Who or what is your "decisive validator"? Who or what gets the final and definitive word, telling you whether you're a success or a failure?
7. Who do you identify with in The Parable of the Prodigal Son? Based on what you now understand about identity, why do you think that is?
8. Religion requires many elements of a Traditional Identity. How does this give you perspective on why so many people in our culture claim to be "spiritual, but not religious"? What do you think they're really saying?
9. What are some ways you try to *conceive* or *achieve* your identity? How does your *received* identity in Christ speak truth into these situations?
10. Rather than exchanging one false identity for another, what would real repentance and growth look like in your life?
11. What one thing will you do with this message this week?