

AWAKEN CHRISTIAN ACADEMY'S

# ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Benefiting ACA's Athletic Department

30 OCTOBER 2023 || 8AM SHOTGUN START

Golfers register at [awakenlions.org/golf](http://awakenlions.org/golf) or scan the QR code

**REVERE GOLF CLUB**

CONTACT COACH ALLEN  
[mikeallen@lionslv.org](mailto:mikeallen@lionslv.org)




**BACK TO THE 80's**

# TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 31 • 6-8PM @ AWAKEN

**WEAR AN 80'S COSTUME**  
*No witchcraft costumes or costumes with weapons*

DONATE FOR CANDY



SPONSOR A TRUNK



JESUS LOVES THEM, AND SO DO WE.

# MADE IN HIS IMAGE

## BLESSING BAGS

GIFT BAG • MINISTRY VISIT • SPECIAL DINNER

SPONSOR A CHILD \$25




# REACHING THE CULTURE

TRANSCENDING GENDER: GOD, TRUTH AND IDENTITY  
ROMANS 12:1-2

WEEK 7

**The reason that Jesus is the best answer to the identity question is that with Him, identity isn't discovered; it's given.**

**Tim Keller**

Sexual orientation and gender identity is the hottest issue facing our society and culture today. Gender options that aren't the traditional binary male and female, gender-neutral pronouns, gender reassignment, and transgender athletes in collegiate sports are scenarios staring us in the face daily. That is matched by people, particularly youth, who are sincerely confused concerning their identity and are consequently searching for answers, trying to find real meaning in life, and are desperate for help. Understanding identity has radically evolved over the past generation from being determined by concrete markers like biological sex to a Freudian psychosociological approach rooted in answering the question, "Who do I think I am?" Youth today are under tremendous pressure to find an identity label that reflects how they feel. However, the truth is there are God-given and unchanging identity anchors that define our identity. This is precisely why the church must wade fearlessly into the issue of sexual orientation and gender identity with truth and love because Jesus is the One who provides the answers.

## **(10 min) OPENING PRAYER**

Ask God to permeate your time with His presence. Pray that God would uniquely enable you and your group to pray powerfully and prophetically over the gender confusion impacting our society in a way that the love of Christ would be victorious.

## **(25 min) TIME TO CONSIDER**

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through this week's lesson, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. Pastor Derek mentioned two unchanging identity anchors God gave us that define our identity. First, we are made by God, and second, we are loved by Jesus. Discuss as a group how those define our identity. Consider the following: how is biological gender a gift, and how does the love of Jesus fulfill the deepest needs in our lives?
2. In Romans 12:1-2 Paul addresses the reality that our bodies are to be submitted to God as an act of worship, and as we do that, He transforms and renews our minds. How does surrender to God in daily worship affect the way we think and the desires of our hearts? Discuss how this looks for a Christian daily. Be honest concerning areas of struggle.
3. How can the church be an influence for God's truth concerning gender-related issues in a way that best reflects Christ and His gospel and draws people to Christ? Consider your current work context, neighborhood, and family. Think about this from the perspective of the people in your life right now that need to be reached.
4. How can we make space in church to show the love and compassion of Christ to those struggling with their sexual orientation and gender identity?

WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSES: **Galatians 2:20** *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

**EXPERIENCING THE SPIRIT TOGETHER:** : Pray for the next 15-20 minutes as a Life Group. Ask God to guide you in this time of prayer, showing you how you can be a light in the midst of great darkness. Pray for a remarkable move of God's Spirit among the LGBT community. Pray that the light of Christ's love would reach the most hardened hearts.

## **(5 min) LIVE IT**

Based on the study, be faithful to obey the words of Christ this week. Pray for people that you know in the LGBT community and intentionally reach out to them this week in an effort to build a relationship and, ultimately, a bridge to the gospel. If you know parents of LGBT children who are struggling, reach out to them in love.