

# Week 4

## Assignment:

Read Chapter 7 (pp. 73-86)

Who do you *say* that you are?

## *You Are a New Creature*

"We worship a God who, in Christ, is continually 'doing a new thing.'" (p.75)

## *A Closer Look at This New Identity*

The gap between perceived identity and true identity

Who are you apart from Former Pastor?

## *What Is Identity?*

How we understand ourselves

How do you characterize your congregation?

"Our hopes for the future, our experience from the past, and our present realities all combine to form our identity." (p. 77)

## *Sizing Up Our Current Perceptions*

Survey neighbors

See questions that begins with "Do our perceptions of ourselves--our perceived identity--match reality?..." (p. 77)

## *Vocation*

That place where one's unique gifts and the world's great needs intersect

## *Why the Resistance?*

"Difficulty of letting go of an old identity"

John 8:31-32 "continue in his word we will know the truth and the truth will make us free"

"Discovering and claiming a new identity not only ground us in reality (usually a good thing), but they also open up to us possibilities inherent in that newness." (p.79)

## *A Fresh Look at Context*

"What's going on in your own neighborhood? What has changed? What has stayed the same?" (p. 77)

Demographic studies

Interview community members

Take a stroll

Visit neighboring congregations as small teams

Have a potluck or dessert time and invite your neighbors

One page survey, door to door

Open Forum Sunday School

**\*\*Record your findings after each encounter\*\***

### *The Wider Community*

Books to study

### *Discover Your Spiritual Gifts*

Identify your giftedness (biblical, other) in a concerted way, [particularly with seasonal visitors]

### *Other "Gifts" to Uncover*

Identity as known in the community

Other important characteristics that are gifts

### Questions:

2. What are some of the words you use to describe your congregation to would-be newcomers? Brainstorm words that describe your hopes for how your congregation might be in the future.
6. ...Which task sparks your imagination as being most critical to accomplishing the work set forth in in this chapter?