

“Challenge Youth Conference”

I attended Challenge Youth Conference. The theme was Identity. Wes McAdams spoke to us about whether or not you can choose your own identity. He said you belong to the one who names you. Meaning whatever we decide is most important to us, be it sports, friends, hobbies, etc. will be what we find our identity in.

Next, we had the opportunity to go to four classes. One was “What do I Reflect?” We listed things we reflect, like family, friends, sports we play, and things we do. We looked in a mirror to see what we need to change about ourselves in order to look better. If we do not change those things, it is foolish. For example if you look at yourself in the mirror and see food stuck in your teeth, then walk away without getting it out; that is the same as looking at yourself and seeing that you are not right with God then going away without fixing it.

We discussed “Is it Possible to just Fake My Way?” and the answer is yes. You can go through life just going through the motions. You might even be able to fool some people but you cannot fool God. He sees what our heart is and he wants our heart fully committed to him. I realized that I do not want to be a comfortable Christian. Which means be a Christian when it is convenient. I want to be all in for God even when it is hard. Our next class was “Are You Taking Up Your Cross?” The teacher asked us, “Who do you say Jesus is?” It is important for us to know who Christ is if we are going to find our identity in him. The last class was titled, “What Do I Stand For?” We talked about how if we don’t show love then we are doing it wrong because God commanded us to love. Saturday night Brandon Edwards talked to us about “Know Jesus”. Knowing someone is different than just having facts about them.

Later that night our youth group met with a few of the other youth groups to sing. It was really awesome to pour out to God, It was really cool because we were singing in the lobby other people came up and sang with us. Our last speaker was Lonnie Jones. His topic was “Identity Crisis”. Our identity should be in Christ and with Christ. He told us that our behavior does not connect us with Christ instead our connection with Christ should create our behavior. This weekend really helped me to learn about my identity in Christ and it helped me to realize that it is my responsibility to be a light for Christ. - Jessica Rackley