



The Notes

FAMILY dysFUNCTION

Week 2: "Identity Crisis"

July 12, 2026

Pastor Dan Houk

"And the Lord told her, 'The sons in your womb will become two nations. From the very beginning, the two nations will be rivals. One nation will be stronger than the other; and your older son will serve your younger son.'"

Genesis 25:23 (NLT)

"As the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter. He was an outdoorsman, but Jacob had a quiet temperament, preferring to stay at home. Isaac loved Esau because he enjoyed eating the wild game Esau brought home, but Rebekah loved Jacob."

Genesis 25:27-28 (NLT)

TO EMBRACE THE IDENTITY GOD HAS FOR ME...

1. ...I NEED TO STOP TRYING TO _____
MY OWN _____.

"One day when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau arrived home from the wilderness exhausted and hungry. Esau said to Jacob, 'I'm starved! Give me some of that red stew!' (This is how Esau got his other name, Edom, which means 'red.') *'All right,' Jacob replied, 'but trade me your rights as the firstborn son.'* *'Look, I'm dying of starvation!' said Esau. 'What good is my birthright to me now?' But Jacob said, 'First you must swear that your*

birthright is mine.’ So Esau swore an oath, thereby selling all his rights as the firstborn to his brother, Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and lentil stew. Esau ate the meal, then got up and left. He showed contempt for his rights as the firstborn.”

Genesis 25:29-34 (NLT)

**2. ...I NEED TO STOP _____ ON WHAT
OTHER’S _____ ME.**

“So Jacob went over and kissed him. And when Isaac caught the smell of his clothes, he was finally convinced, and he blessed his son. He said, ‘Ah! The smell of my son is like the smell of the outdoors, which the Lord has blessed! From the dew of heaven and the richness of the earth, may God always give you abundant harvests of grain and bountiful new wine. May many nations become your servants, and may they bow down to you. May you be the master over your brothers, and may your mother’s sons bow down to you. All who curse you will be cursed, and all who bless you will be blessed.’”

Genesis 27:27-29 (NLT)

“From that time on, Esau hated Jacob because their father had given Jacob the blessing. And Esau began to scheme: ‘I will soon be mourning my father’s death. Then I will kill my brother, Jacob.’ But Rebekah heard about Esau’s plans. So she sent for Jacob and told him, ‘Listen, Esau is consoling himself by plotting to kill you. So listen carefully, my son. Get ready and flee to my brother, Laban, in Haran. Stay there with him until your brother cools off. When he calms down and forgets what you have done to him, I will send for you to come back. Why should I lose both of you in one day?’”

Genesis 27:41-45 (NLT)

“Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the Lord means safety.”

Proverbs 29:25 (NLT)

**3. ... I NEED TO _____ MYSELF IN HOW GOD
_____ ME.**

“Then Jacob prayed, ‘O God of my grandfather Abraham, and God of my father, Isaac, O Lord, you told me, ‘Return to your own land and to your relatives.’ And you promised me, ‘I will treat you kindly.’”

Genesis 32:9 (NLT)

“This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break. When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob’s hip and wrenched it out of its socket. Then the man said, ‘Let me go, for the dawn is breaking!’ But Jacob said, ‘I will not let you go unless you bless me.’ ‘What is your name?’ the man asked. He replied, ‘Jacob.’ ‘Your name will no longer be Jacob,’ the man told him. ‘From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won.’ ‘Please tell me your name,’ Jacob said. ‘Why do you want to know my name?’ the man replied. Then he blessed Jacob there. Jacob named the place Peniel (which means ‘face of God’), for he said, ‘I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been spared.’”

Genesis 32:24-30 (NLT)

“And there he built an altar and named it El-Elohe-Israel.”

Genesis 33:20 (NLT)

“But now, O Jacob, listen to the Lord who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, ‘Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.’”

Isaiah 43:1 (NLT)

“He came into the very world he created, but the world didn’t recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn, not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.”

John 1:10-13 (NLT)