

SERMON SERIES: Madness
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Key Line

To build our life, we must allow our identity to define our success. Don't let the desire for success consume you.

Introduction

The desire to succeed is God-given. When you become consumed with success, though, you become self-destructive.

Seek the Word

Read Ecclesiastes 2:17-23.

- What reason did Solomon give for saying that all of his hard work was meaningless? (*It would be left to someone else who might not use it wisely. He couldn't take it with him.*)
- When he realized all of his hard work was meaningless, what happened? (*He began to despair.*)
- When does the desire to succeed move from good to toxic? (*When it becomes the way we identify ourselves; when it defines our identity.*)

Read Ecclesiastes 4:4.

- According to Solomon, what fuels our desire to succeed most of the time? (*Envy of our neighbor.*)

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17.

- Jesus came to redefine success. What does Paul say makes a successful person, according to this passage? (*To remain in Christ.*)

Talk About It

- Fill in the blanks according to your own life: If I could just be successful at _____, then I'll be _____. How do you define success in your life?
- What are some things in your life that could lead you astray? What are weaknesses that could pull you away from focusing on God?
- How can we reframe our identity and move away from measuring our identity by our success in life (money, power, control, job achievements) and focusing on our true identity in Christ? (*By living and loving the way Jesus did in ourselves, in our families, with our friends, and in our communities. Do the people around you see Jesus in you?*)

Use the 40 Day Prayer Guide to grow deeper in your prayer life over the next 40 days until Easter. This can be found on the Calvary website: <https://calvary.ch/40days/>