

WHO DO WE CHOOSE TO BE

Facing Reality | Claiming Leadership | Restoring Sanity

DISCUSSION GUIDE: “Identity”

“A culture focused on individual freedom can only result in narcissism, polarization, conflict, estrangement, and loneliness. What is the meaning of life when it’s all about me” (p.81)?

In what ways does social media form your identity and that of those around you? How do you utilize social media? What identity do you portray there? Does that portrait change with the platform?

“There’s only one need: Do you know what you’re faithful to? Have you defined what’s of real value, what you stand for, what you will continue to work for even when it becomes hard and disappointing” (p. 112)? What are your non-negotiables? What matters the most to you? Is there anything so important that you would sacrifice everything? What, if anything, will you hang onto at all costs?

Consider the “lessons learned from besieged nuns” (p114-115). Which lesson do you resonate with or find the most helpful when being “confronted by the powerful who want to condemn, shame, and render us powerless” (p. 114)?

“Awakening to this world requires willingness to open our minds and hearts. Each issue is the result of multiple causes and conditions, and we must stay curious to understand cause and effect. Every protestor who goes into the streets is experiencing pain and rage. Without condoning or allowing destructive actions, compassion allows us to connect with the protestors as fellow human beings.

As Warriors for the Human Spirit, we have chosen an identity that gives us these capacities for discernment and compassion. We have chosen to protect the human spirit. We do not deny or withdraw from the pain of this world. We know it will get worse because we know the pattern of collapse, and because we pay attention. We are dedicated to serving this world as the pain and suffering intensify. This blessed identity calls us forward to a life of meaning and purpose, a true path or contribution” (p. 101).

NEXT WEEK

read chapter 3, “Information” (p. 120-175)