

Label Maker

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(Middle School Audience)

Scripture: Romans 12:2

Idea: Labels are powerful things. **The labels people put on you could cause you to miss God's plan for you.**

Introduction

1. Anybody know what this is? That's right; it's a label maker [*Andy shows a label maker.*]
2. Interesting gadget. You find something, determine what it is, then you label it. *Show examples*
3. Here's a question: Who has the right to label something?
 - The **manufacturer**: baseball bats, CD covers, clothes, TV, etc.
 - The **owner**: *What if I came to your house with a label maker and started putting labels on your stuff: Mom, room, guitar, etc. I may be **right**, but I have no **right** to label your stuff. It's not my stuff.*
 - The **purchaser**: What do you do when you purchase a new glove, backpack, book, etc.?

The next question is one of the most important questions you will wrestle with in your life. I don't want you to answer out loud. It's hard because some of you haven't stopped talking for several years. Ready, guys? Ladies? Eighth graders? Students with the newest iPhones and unlimited data plans?

But first, practice questions:

- Who was the real inspiration behind "We Are Never Ever (Ever, Ever) Getting Back Together"? Answer: Jake
- Who has the right to label **you**?

I. We all end up with labels.

A. My Growing-Up Labels

1. Sixth Grade: Saber-toothed Stanley
I labeled myself: *Not Attractive*
2. Eighth Grade:
 - First test in pre-, pre-Algebra, I made a **NO**.
 - Second test made another **NO**.
 - So, I decided to average my grades.
 - $\text{NO} + \text{NO} = \text{NO}$.

Label: Not Smart

3. Tried out for eighth-grade basketball. Cut. "Stanley, you've got no