

The Battle for Truth?

Part 8 – Identity & Relationship

1

INTRODUCTION

Everything God has set in place is under direct attack. The concept of identity, gender, sexuality, and marriage are under direct assault by the forces of evil and continue to erode into chaos and confusion.

This week Biden gave a speech in Philadelphia and basically stated that those who oppose abortion and the LGBTQ+ agenda are enemies of freedom and democracy!

Jesus never promised us an easy life in this lifetime. However, He has called us to be light and speakers of truth to a generation who are blind and deceived. Eternity hangs in the balance for them.

2

CFR

This year at ACS we are working on improving our “Biblical Integration” and teaching our students how to evaluate the issues they are facing on their own.

The format is CFR.

How does this issue relate to CREATION? What did God create and what is His plan and purpose?

How has the FALL impacted this issue? There is a Spiritual battle, so we need to see these issues clearly from God’s perspective.

R stands for REDEMPTION. Jesus is going to return and restore things to the way they were intended. However, we need to take these issues and Redeem them back to God’s intended purpose in our own lives and to stand strong, speaking and living TRUTH in our social culture!

3

IDENTITY

Who are we? Who are you? How do you see yourself? Who do you allow to shape your view of self?

Mankind was created in the image of God. That makes us unique in all this physical creation. We were designed with a plan and purpose (Psalm 139). We looked at the “image of God” in our lives last week with regard to the sanctity of life.

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IDENTITY

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Not only was man created in the image of God, mankind was created in two distinct forms – male and female.

In the Garden of Eden, God formed the first family unit. He made Adam and Eve – a man and a woman. This is God's intended plan with the purpose of helping and completing one another and to be fruitful and multiply.

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IDENTITY

We were created to be God's representatives in Creation. Much of this was lost in the fall, but we still bear a reflection of what we were intended to be.

Man was created to live in harmony with God. His design and precepts that He placed into Creation are **good**! However, in the Spiritual battle, Satan hates and despises this.

We were created to live under God's law and commands. These commands are not grievous, but actually grant a person true freedom, joy, peace, and fulfillment. Rebellion enslaves a person into bondage and produces guilt, shame and anxiety.

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IDENTITY

Our identity is found in our relationship with God.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. ¹⁴ For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

Yes, we are fallen creatures, but God through Jesus has offered us grace, mercy, and forgiveness. For those who turn to Jesus, our sins are nailed to the cross and paid for in full. We are adopted into God's family. Our relationship with God is restored, and we look forward to living in the fullness of life in His presence for all eternity.

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REBELLION & CONSEQUENCES

As a result of the fall, there is a battle in society regarding identity. The rejection of God has corrupted how one sees themselves. This battle over identity and sexuality has long plagued mankind.

One of the scariest principles found in scripture is that one of the greatest punishments God can give us is allowing us to have what we want outside of His will.

Rebellion against the principles of God always has deep consequence - guilt, depression, despair, loneliness. These feelings of the heart are designed to bring one to repentance. However, this can also lead to suicide and/or a seared conscience for those who do not find resolution with God. This is why it is critical to speak truth in love.

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REBELLION & CONSEQUENCES

Romans 1:18-23

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

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REBELLION & CONSEQUENCES

Romans 1:24-27

Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. ²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

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REBELLION & CONSEQUENCES

Romans 1:28-32

And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, ³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; ³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

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REBELLION & CONSEQUENCES

How did we get here?

Satan was not cursed with death, so he is willing to be slow and methodical in his plan. His goal is to unite the entire world under his leader in defiance to Jesus.

Prostitution, adultery, homosexuality, abortion, infanticide, transgender, and a host of other sins have been around since ancient times.

However, society saw these things as wrong, so they existed in the shadows and were punished when they were exposed. To make these actions acceptable, the heart of society needed to be changed, but not too fast as that would create a backlash. What one generation struggles with, the following accepts and pushes the boundaries further.

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REBELLION & CONSEQUENCES

How did we get here?

In December 1953 the first issue of *Playboy* was published moving pornography from the shadows into a billion dollar industry. The images burn their way into the minds of the reader, searing conscience and replaced the intimacy of marriage with lust. Other magazines followed and the digital revolution pushed and continues to push the boundaries of what is acceptable.

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REBELLION & CONSEQUENCES

The 1960's brought the "sexual revolution." The lust that had been planted in the hearts became an epidemic that continues to this day. Instead of viewing women (and men) as those made in God's image to be valued, nurtured and cherished, became objects to be used, abused, and thrown away. Instead of finding one's identity defined by God, people allowed "society" to establish their identity. Sex has become the selling point from cars to everything else. It has become the underlying theme of how people see themselves. It is reinforced in media and music and fuels a multibillion fashion and cosmetic industry.

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REBELLION & CONSEQUENCES

We adorn the outside and ignore the things that are important; one's walk and relationship with God. We have lost the concept of "character".

1 Peter 3:3-4

Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—⁴ rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.

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REBELLION & CONSEQUENCES

Sexual intimacy has become and accepted and expected part of a dating relationship. There are over 30 different sexually transmitted diseases. The good news is four of them are curable, and another handful can be treated and put in remission. However, remission is not a cure and they can resurface at any time.

These issues have to be discussed in modern day premarital counseling. I have seen people walk away from the relationship when they find out their future spouse has an STD because they were not faithful before marriage.

God turned the world over to its lust but also the consequences.

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REBELLION & CONSEQUENCES

Because of the sexual promiscuity that has been unleashed on our nation, an expected consequence of unwanted pregnancies ensued.

God again turned our nation over and our nation alone terminates 1.2 million pregnancies a year (see last weeks sermon).

Today there is a push for the after-morning pill. In the restaurant industry to "86" something is to discard or throw something away. The name of one of the first abortion pills is RU486. Did you catch it? R U 4 86?

Remember that what one generation does, the next will take further. Our society has become comfortable and accepting if not protective of the sexual revolution and its consequence. God again turns us over...

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REBELLION & CONSEQUENCES

By the turn of the millennium, sexual promiscuity between male and female had become mainstream, but society still had reservations on homosexuality. Though homosexuality has existed through the ages, it was not widely accepted in America. Most people did not have sexual urges for the same sex. To overcome this, people had to be taught that it was socially acceptable.

The goal, was to put a gay or lesbian character in every TV show. This brought an indoctrination into our homes and for our children. Education was also targeted. Though the results were positive, it was not enough. Today the mentality of putting gender issues is in almost every children's program, and we should all be aware of the new social public school curriculum that starts its indoctrination in kindergarten so children (with a lot of push) can choose their own sexual identity.

Historical period programs are rewriting history showing this type of conduct in the 40's and 50's if not before indoctrinating unwary viewers that has always been the norm.

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RESTORATION

Pandora's box has been opened. Only an act of God and a worldwide Revival will turn our nation back.

2 Chronicles 7:14

if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

We must not surrender. We cannot make choices for others, but we can for ourselves.

So, what should we do?

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RESTORATION

1. Take time to evaluate your own identity in Christ. Make sure your foundation is firmly built on God's Word.
2. Take every thought captive. Is it pure? Is it of good report? Is it true?

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

3. Be aware of what you allow into your life. We live in a cesspool, but we do not have to eat there. Be aware of what you see and what you listen to.
Remember CFR!

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RESTORATION

4. Talk about these things with your children and grandchildren. The world has convinced many that they need to stay quiet. No! Now is the time to instruct our children how to think Biblically and to evaluate these things from God's viewpoint.
5. If your children are in public school, be aware of what they are being taught. Be an involved parent.
6. Be gracious with those who disagree with you. Many are in bondage to their lifestyle, and their eyes are blind. We need to speak the truth in love. Heated arguments lead to alienation and often reinforces bad behavior.

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RESTORATION

7. Most of all, pray for our nation and those you know caught up in this lifestyle. God still has the ability to bring conviction and change hearts and lives.

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