

What is Your Identity?

Exploring what the Bible has to
say about Your Identity

Session 3

Transformation

1

Our Former Identity

We have looked at the conflict of identity within ourselves and society, reviewed some of the attributes of God, and the nature of man.

The problem we face in life is the battle with our sin nature. It is sin, our “rebellion”, that cut us off from God. We found ourselves condemned and guilty before a Holy God and we were unable to make it right. We were broken and unable to fix ourselves.

2

Our Former Identity

The Identity we bore was that of Adam. A man that willfully turned his back on God and did what was “right in his own eyes.” Adam & Eve were deceived and broken and cut off from their intimate relationship with God. They left Eden and entered a world that was under the curse of sin, and filled with disappointment, pain, suffering, and death. All that they touched was marred by their sinful touch.

3

Our Former Identity

Though man turned his back on God, God did not abandon man. He promised a redeemer.

In **Genesis 3:15**, God speaks to the serpent saying, “**And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.**”

We know that the “seed” was Jesus who came and paid our debt for sin upon the cross.

4

Reclaimed

Listen to what Paul writes to those in Christ.

Colossians 2:11-14

In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. ¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

5

Reclaimed

Though we were born in the “image of Adam”, we are are now being “transformed” into the “image of Christ”!

1 Corinthians 15:47-49

The first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; the second Man *is* the Lord from heaven. ⁴⁸ As *was* the *man* of dust, so also *are* those *who are made* of dust; and as *is* the heavenly *Man*, so also *are* those *who are* heavenly. ⁴⁹ And as we have borne the image of the *man* of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *Man*.

Romans 8:29

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

6

Reclaimed

Our salvation is not based in us or our efforts, but in Jesus and what He did for us.

Ephesians 2:1-5

And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).

Take a minute to personalize this... Fill in your name in the blank.

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved _____, ⁵ even when _____ was dead in trespasses, made _____ alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).

7

Reclaimed

Our salvation is not based in us or our efforts, but in Jesus and what He did for us.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Many people feel that their acceptance by God is based in their works. This is backwards. We “are His workmanship”! God is reclaiming you to a new reality, a new relationship, and new purpose, and new future!

8

Renewed

We must realize that we are not the people we were before we were saved. God, through Jesus, has renewed us and is restoring us to His intended purpose.

Colossians 3:10

[You] have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

9

Renewed

Before Jesus went to the cross, He celebrated and instituted “communion” with His disciples.

1 Corinthians 11:25

In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.”

Salvation has always been through Faith. The Old Covenant was the Old Testament Law with its sacrifices. The Law did not save but showed man his sin (Galatians 3:24) and need for redemption through a substitutionary sacrifice.

We live under the “New Covenant”, Jesus as the perfect substitutionary sacrifice paid for all our sins on the cross and opened a new era of renewed relationship with God.

10

Renewed

Jeremiah 31:31-34

“Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— ³²not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. ³³But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

1. The New Covenant will not be like the Old Covenant (v. 32)
2. The Lord will put His law in our minds and write them on our hearts (v. 33)
3. The Lord will be our God, and we will be His people (v. 33)
4. We will Know God (v. 34)
5. He will forgive our iniquity and never again remember our sins (v. 34)

11

Redirected

An important question everyone should ask themselves is this, **“How can I tell whether I truly believed in Jesus?”** Believing in Jesus is not the same as just acknowledging that He existed or even admitting that He is the Son of God.

Matthew 7:21-23

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²²Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³And then I will declare to them, **‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’**”

James 2:18-19

But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹You believe that there is one God. You do well. **Even the demons believe—and tremble!**

12

Redirected

True Salvation results in Knowing Who God is and What He is like. Loving Him means that we will want to please Him. We will repent of our sin and live a life that pleases Him. Listen to how Jesus defines eternal life.

John 17:3

And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Knowing God will be evidenced in how we live.

1 John 1:4-7

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

13

Redirected

True salvation is marked by a life that is in process of renouncing sin.

1 John 2:3-6

Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. ⁶ He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

I am NOT saying that you will not sin, or struggle with sin. We have a conflicted nature. What I am saying, is the True Believer will be grieved by their sin and seek to overcome it. However, this is impossible on our own.

14

Repurposed

What does having a “new heart” look like? What are its characteristics? What does it look like to turn away from darkness and walk in the light with a heart like Jesus’ heart?

The key is that we have been given the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-18

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

15

Repurposed

Paul contrasts the fruit of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21) with the fruit of the Spirit. Notice that the verse says FRUIT not FRUITS. It is singular. All nine of these are attributes of having the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Jesus states in Matthew 7:16 that you will be able to recognize people by their fruit!

16

So What ...

Having the Holy Spirit at work in our lives gives us the freedom to deny sin and choose to live for God. When this happens, we produce fruit. Freedom does not mean following your heart. True freedom is following the One who created and redeemed you – The Lord Jesus Christ!

Galatians 5:1

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.