

What is Your Identity?

Exploring what the Bible has to
say about Your Identity

Session 5

What You Have

1

Our Former Identity

It is easy to get trapped in who we were rather than who we are. This can be a result of Satan's attack and/or unresolved sin.

It is easy to see ourselves against the backdrop of the world's goals and values. We are in the world, but we are not to be "of" the world.

What we need to do is learn to rest in our NEW identity. Let's look at some of the things that we have in Jesus.

2

Love Ephesians 1:4

He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.

What gets in the way of your recognizing God's love for you?

Last week we saw that there was **NOTHING** that can separate us from God's great love.

The same love that exists between the members of the Trinity has now been extended to those in Christ!

3

Redemption and Forgiveness

Satan and his forces continually attempt to remind you of your past sin and failure. This is not who you are if you accepted God's salvation.

Psalm 103:11-14

For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; ¹² As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

¹³ As a father pities his children, So the Lord pities those who fear Him. ¹⁴ For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

When you are confronted by your past, take that time to stop and thank Jesus for paying for that debt.

4

The Holy Spirit

Ephesians 1:13

In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

When you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, God placed His Spirit in you. This is our “seal” or mark that we belong to God and nothing can remove it.

Just as Jesus is the essence of our salvation, the Spirit is responsible for our Spiritual Life. The Spirit gives us the Power to overcome sin. He works in and through our lives transforming us into the Image of Christ. He also gives us “gifts” and talents to minister in the lives of others.

5

Access

That which separated us from God was our sin and that was dealt with upon the cross. Through the Holy Spirit, you have access into the very presence of the Father. There you can pour out your joy or sorrow, ask for wisdom in life’s circumstance, petition Him for help for yourself and others, and most importantly we can come before Him in worship.

Romans 8:14-16

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

6

Purpose

The world seeks to discover the purpose of life. Because worldly philosophy reject God, it is at a loss to find the real purpose and meaning of life. Some philosophers have concluded that life has no purpose. This leads to despair, depression, and suicide.

1 Peter 1:18

Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers.

Peter declares that before salvation that our conduct was without real direction or purpose. The death of Christ on the cross has redeemed you out this conduct to something new!

7

Purpose

Let me emphasize that everyone of you who has received Jesus' offer of salvation is valuable and of great worth in the eyes of God. You are loved, given the Holy Spirit, and repurposed for service in God's Kingdom.

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.

God not only knew you from before the foundation of this world but had a plan and purpose for you! He has designed you giving you your talents and abilities, but also "gifted" you so that you can serve Him.

8

Purpose

People are often intimidated by God's calling in their lives. It is never easy or comfortable to identify with and serve a Holy God in a dark and sinful world.

You must decide about whom you are going to serve. The things of this world are passing away. You can spend a lifetime of hard work for the applause of the world and find you have nothing at the end of life.

Or you can serve God who has equipped you to make an eternal difference. Which is the wise choice?

Satan will tell you that you are a failure and not good enough, but God says different. He has given you everything you need for life and Godliness (2 Peter 1:3).

9

Purpose

God has not left you alone. He is with you, and you have the Holy Spirit. Listen to Jesus' words...

Matthew 11:28-30

“Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”

The yoke that is spoken of here is a training yoke. The work is hard, but God is the one doing the real work. He is working through you. We may not understand the big picture but can trust in the one who does. We must obey His calling and direction in our lives. We must learn to serve Him properly. We must learn when to speak, and when to be quiet.

10

Purpose

God leaves us in this world so we can minister on His behalf.

We have been given so much – forgiveness, The Holy Spirit, adoption, a new family ...

We must live and speak in a way that reflects Jesus and proclaim what He has done for us. We live in the middle of a lost, blind, and condemned people. Who will tell them of the glory of Christ if we do not stand up and make a difference?

Matthew 5:16

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

11

So What ...

Satan and the world do not want you to live for Jesus. He intimidates and accuses believers so that they remain silent. We must remember that it is not about us, but about Jesus who died for us.

We must purpose ourselves to live in our **New Identity**. We have God's Word and the Spirit to empower us. The church is here to equip, encourage, and support you.

We can do this! Let's live this coming week in a way that bring glory to Christ.

You make a difference!

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