

(Tonight's message will pick-up at point II - page 3)

Introduction:

- We have been looking at Our Identity in Christ.
 - We looked at the great lengths that Christ went to fully identify with us. We saw that He is identifying with us is foundational to our identifying with Him. To understand how He identifies with us, brings revelation to how we identify to Him.
 - We began to introduce what it means to have our identity in Christ. We must choose to identify with Him as He did with us. He identified with us at the cross and we identify with Him at the same place. He was given a new body, we become a new creation.
- We also know that there is a legal side a spiritual side to sin and to salvation.
 - We all died spiritually because of Adam—legal. The curse of the fall is found in our flesh.
 - We all live spiritually by faith in Christ Jesus—legal. The blessing spiritually is new life in Christ and His spirit telling our spirit we are His children.
- We need the help of the Holy Spirit to teach us. Holy Spirit has come to establish us in Christ! We must realize that the enemy comes to take us out of who we are in Christ. This battle is won or lost in our minds, our understanding, etc.
- *"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"* (2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT)
- *"And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness."* (Colossians 2:6-7, NLT)

I. False Identity

- A. Luke 15 Parable of the Loving Father. We see the lives of two of Father's sons. What we get as we look initially at the two sons is a picture of false identity. Neither son saw themselves as sons of the Father.
1. Prodigal left home in search of wine, women and song. Thinking he was free he was really bound up as servant and not a son. When the wine, women and song were gone and he was desiring the slop that pigs were eating he saw the goodness of his father and decided to return home as a servant.
 - a) He takes on the identity of a servant and not a son because of his sense of unworthiness.
 - b) *"and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."* (Luke 15:19, NLT) Greek word is hired servant, labor for money.
 - c) He did not know that his father continued to remain true in his love for his son.
 - (1) His assumption is that the father will be angry.
 - (2) His assumption is that the father will be disappointed.
 - (3) His assumption is that he can never be a son of his father again.
 2. The older son has stayed at home with the father but he see himself as a slave. This is a typical misconception that a believer has of himself. Ie. It's A Wonderful Life! George Bailey sees himself as a slave to the Building and Loan...his father's business.

- a) Tragedy: He sees himself as a slave in his fathers house. Greek word doulas – a slave, dependent upon the master.
 - b) vs. 29, "I have slaved for you...not once did I transgress." I have worked. I did not sin. You did not honor me.
 - c) His assumption is the father does not care
 - d) His assumption is that he has no rights to what father has. *You have always been with me and everything I have is yours.* What a tragedy to be a son and live like a servant.
 - e) His assumption is that he is liked as a servant and not loved as a son.
3. Again, We need the help of the Holy Spirit to teach us. Holy Spirit has come to establish us in Christ! We must realize that the enemy comes to take us out of who we are in Christ just as he came to take these two sons out of identity with their father. The reality of their position is that they are seeing themselves as orphans and not as sons.
- B. A look at the Father and our identity.
1. The Father sets out to establish their identity in them.
 2. To the Prodigal. Lk 15:21-24 The Father begets a son and not a servant.
 - a) vs 21 The son begins his plea to be a servant but the Father does not even hear his words. God wants sons first, not servants. Of course he wants his son to serve in the house but he must become a son first or his service will always be to obtain merit/favor, to perform, he will live with fear of not doing enough. He will be a slave without sonship.
 - b) The Father does not humiliate the son. He does not punish him! He accepts him! He gives him full sonship status and all the privileges.
 - c) He re-establishes His son's identity! Everything that follows is about affirming that His son is really a son!
 - (1) Kisses - greeting of acceptance. An act of intimacy/closeness.
 - (2) Bring the finest robe-"*I am overwhelmed with joy in the Lord my God! For he has dressed me with the clothing of salvation and draped me in a robe of righteousness. I am like a bridegroom dressed for his wedding or a bride with her jewels."* (Isaiah 61:10, NLT) "*For the Scriptures tell us, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith."*" (Romans 4:3, NLT) "*... But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, ...*" (Romans 5:17, NLT) Believing and receiving the righteousness of God was affirming the prodigal that he was not a servant but a son! The robe was not given to cover his sin. That was already done the robe was given to establish the sons identity. Understanding righteousness.
 - (3) Ring for his finger – signet ring, giving him the authority of the family. Understanding authority.
 - (4) Sandals for his feet - slaves don't have shoes but sons do. Gospel of peace.
 - (5) Kill the fatted calf! We must celebrate. For this son was dead in the 'far away' place but now he lives. (lost sheep). He was lost but now he is found. (Lost coin) It is the Father's joy in the relationship that is most valuable to him...his son!
 3. To the son at home.

- a) The father goes to him.
- b) He reminds him of who he is, a son!
 - (1) You have always been with me and everything I have is yours.
 - (2) What a tragedy to be a son and live like a servant. To be a son and live 'sub par below the Kingdom provision.
- c) Again we hear the Father say, "We must celebrate. For this son was dead in the 'far away' place but now he lives. (lost sheep). He was lost but now he is found. (Lost coin)"
- 4. It is the Father's joy in the relationship that is most valuable to him...his son!
- 5. God wants relationship at a level that causes us to cry ABBA, Father.

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II. A New Identity

- A. "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" (2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT)
 - 1. Ktisis - creation. "The OT view of creation fixes the role of humanity as both part of creation and yet distinct from it because of a special relation to God." Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). TDNT (p. 483). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans. The New creation does the same. What was dead now has new life because of its relationship with God. IE. We are made higher than the angels...another point to stress that special relationship with God.
 - 2. New - Gr. *akin*. To be new in nature; newness of life. IE. Anakin Skywalker - anakainoo – to be renewed.
 - 3. A new creation. Because of our relationship with God we have a new nature and newness of life.
 - a) "It doesn't matter whether we have been circumcised or not. What counts is whether we have been transformed into a new creation." (Galatians 6:15, NLT)
 - (1) Transformed is not used in the Greek.
 - (2) Point is new creation not circumcision.
 - b) "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." (Ephesians 2:10, NLT)
 - (1) God's masterpiece/handicraft/workmanship.
 - (2) God will not make anything sloppy especially that which is in special relationships with Him.
 - c) "Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy." (Ephesians 4:24, NLT)
 - d) "Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him." (Colossians 3:10, NLT)
 - (1) Put on your new
 - (2) And be re-created. It is the ultimate make over. IE. What not to wear.
- B. When you choose life you choose change. Put on some new clothes. If you are going to put something on you have to take something off and that my friends is--change.

1. Col 3:8-11 *But you know better now, so make sure it's all gone for good: bad temper, irritability, meanness, profanity, dirty talk. Don't lie to one another. You're done with that old life. It's like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothes you've stripped off and put in the fire. **10** Now you're dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it. All the old fashions are now obsolete... So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. **13** Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. **14** And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it. THE MESSAGE*
2. I.e. Cable program--*What not to Wear*. This is a program about change! Time for new garments!
 - a) People are given an opportunity to change.
 - b) They are allowed to see what they really look like.
 - c) In order to change they must give up their old wardrobe.
 - d) They must be willing to trust others to help.
 - e) They have to put on new garments.
3. People do not change, until the pain of not changing, is greater than the pain of change itself.
4. We call this hitting the bottom. And the bottom is different for everyone.
 - a) The quicker you are able to humble yourself the quicker you change.
 - b) Some people's pride and stubbornness will take them deeper into the pain of change process.
5. When you get saved go as fast as you can to adopt the Kingdom ways. You are already motivated. You are already entering into the change process. Don't stop, don't look back –keep on changing.
- C. When you choose life, you choose to change.
 1. Everything about us was death before or at least it ended in death.
 2. The mind must be renewed. Joshua 1:8 *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.* NKJV Leave 'wilderness christianity' for promised land!
 - a) Meditate–night and day–giving yourself to God.
 - b) Study–2 Tim 2:15 study to show yourself approved.
 - c) Speak–confess openly who you are and speak it often to one another.
 3. We must...
 - a) Change our thoughts of God--find out who He is (healer, savior, deliverer), what are His emotions.
 - b) Change our thoughts of ourselves--I must see me as God sees me.
 - c) Change our thoughts of others–I must see others as God sees them.

4. When we chose life, life has a whole new operating system that must be installed and we are constantly making upgrades/updates to improve life performance.
5. Every update...makes a difference.
- D. Identity - is the condition of being the same with something; sameness of essential character. The act of proving to be the same. So the question then is: What makes me like God or what are the 'samenesses' that God and I have in common?
 1. IE. If a child is adopted by a family, what samenesses do they now have?
 - a) Same name. or new name
 - b) Same address. new address
 - c) Same family. new family
 - d) Same rights and privileges. New rights and privileges. What are those rights and privileges? Good thing to study. IE. Heidi Baker, missionary in Mozambique. When new orphans come in they hoard food, hide food, fight for food. The veteran orphans just smile and say there is plenty. They have learned their new identity.
 2. When I am born again, justified, I legally become a part of the family of God! What I must now discover is:
 - a) What does this mean for me?
 - b) What the ramifications of this event for me?
 - c) What does it mean to be a son and not just a servant?

III. New Creation Realities! That is what it means. My life and how I live it is different now.

- A. I am complete in Him Who is the head over all rule and authority—of every angelic and earthly power. Col 2:10
- B. I am alive with Christ Eph 2:5.
- C. I am free from the law of sin and death. Ro 8:2
- D. I am far from oppression, and will not live in fear. Is 54:14
- E. I am born of God, and the evil one does not touch me. 1 Jn 5:18
- F. I am holy and without blame before Him in love. Eph1:4; 1 Peter1:16
- G. I have the mind of Christ. 1 Cor 2:16; Phil 2:5.
- H. In Christ, I am dead to sin—my relationship to it is broken—and alive to God—living in unbroken fellowship with Him. Ro 6:11.
- I. I have the peace of God that surpasses all understanding Philippians 4:7.
- J. The Spirit of God, who is greater than the enemy in the world, lives in me 1 John 4:4.
- K. I have received abundant grace and the gift of righteousness and reign in life through Jesus Christ Ro 5:17.
- L. I have received the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Jesus, the eyes of my heart enlightened, so that I know the hope of having life in Christ. Eph 1:17-18.
- M. I have received the power of the Holy Spirit and He can do miraculous things through me. I have authority and power over the enemy in this world. Mark 16:17-18; Lk 10:17-19.
- N. I am renewed in the knowledge of God and no longer want to live in my old ways or nature before I accepted Christ. Col 3:9-10.
- O. I am merciful, I do not judge others, and I forgive quickly. As I do this by God's grace, He blesses my life. Lk 6:36-38.

- P. God supplies all of my needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Phil 4:19.
- Q. In all circumstances I live by faith in God and extinguish all the flaming darts (attacks) of the enemy. Eph 6:16.
- R. I can do whatever I need to do in life through Christ Jesus who gives me strength Phil 4:13.
- S. I am chosen by God who called me out of the darkness of sin and into the light and life of Christ so I can proclaim the excellence and greatness of who He is 1 Peter 2:9
- T. I am born again—spiritually transformed, renewed and set apart for God’s purpose—through the living and everlasting word of God. 1 Peter 1:23.

Conclusion:

- Knowing who I am allows me to live as a new creation!