

BELIEVE

"Our Identity in Christ"

INTRODUCTION:

1. Review:

- a) In Week 1 - "God" we learned that the one true is the God of the Bible.
- b) In Week 2 - "Personal God" we learned that this great and awesome God of the Bible who created the universe, pursues us and seeks to have a personal, intimate relationship with each of us.
- c) Last week - we looked at Biblical Salvation:
 - The Gospel
 - Our Union with Christ (Us in Christ and Christ in us)
 - And if this is so: "We need to act like it!!!"
 - Our being "in Christ" and "Christ in Us" is the "hub" of our salvation and the spokes of the wheel are all that pertain to our Salvation.
 - Redemption
 - Justification
 - Reconciliation
 - Regeneration
 - Adoption
 - Sanctification
 - Glorified
 - All of these are component parts of Salvation!!! They are Salvation.

2. **Webster** defines it like this:

Identity theft is a crime in which an imposter obtains key pieces of personal information, such as **Social Security** or **driver's license numbers**, in order to impersonate someone else. The information can be used to obtain **credit, merchandise, and services** in the name of the victim, or to provide the thief with false credentials. In addition to running up debt, an imposter might provide false identification to police, creating a criminal record or leaving outstanding arrest warrants for the person whose identity has been stolen.

3. We can become so proud of our descriptors that they actually become our identity.

I. IDENTIFYING IDENTITY THIEVES

A. RELATIONSHIPS

1. **PROBLEM:** When you expect one of these people to complete you and they fail you - you're identity is gone. And when they fail you...you can become bitter.

2. And when you are bitter, your relationship with God is hindered.

a) **1 John 2:9-11**

b) **Mark 11:25**

c) **John 9:31**

d) **Hebrews 12:15**

e) **1 John 4:20**

f) **Matthew 5:23-24** (Bad relationships can cheapen our worship)

g) **Proverbs 28:14**

B. APPEARANCES

1. Who does not want to look good?

a) It's one thing to look beautiful...quite another to be beautiful!!!

2. **Genesis 1:26-27**

3. **Genesis 2:25**

4. **Genesis 3:1, 2-3, 4-5**

5. **FOUR BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES ABOUT APPEARANCES** - Mike Breaux

a) **#1** - *Know what God says.*

1) **Romans 12:1-2**

2) **Colossians 2:8**

3) **Philippians 4:8**

b) **#2** - *See How God Sees*

1) **1 Peter 3:3-4**

2) Wow!!! **1 Samuel 16:7**

c) **#3** - *Love Who God Loves*

1) **Isaiah 58:6-8**

- d) **#4 - Reflect Who God Is**
 - 1) **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**
 - a) "*glorify*" - to put on display

C. SUCCESS

- 1. **Ecclesiastes 4:4**
- 2. The identity thief "success" comes in all shapes and sizes.
 - a) Occupation
 - b) Sports
 - c) Education
 - d) Children
- 3. **2 Corinthians 10:17-18**

D. THE PAST

- 1. The past can be a Thief!!!!
 - a) Something you did.
 - b) A failed marriage.
 - c) Dropped out of school.
 - d) An abortion.
 - e) An affair.
 - f) An arrest.
 - g) Or perhaps you have just wasted time doing nothing for the Lord.
- 2. **1 John 1:9**
- 3. **Psalm 103:11-12**
- 4. **2 Corinthians 5:17**

II. INSPIRING OUR TRUE IDENTITY

- 1. As a pastor I have counseled people who claim to be Christians who struggle with:
 - a) *Depression*
 - b) *Anger and bitterness*
 - c) *Substance abuse*
 - d) *Sexual sins*

A. BELIEVERS ARE SAINTS

1. *Ephesians 1:1-2, Phil 1:1; Colossians 1:2*

a) "**Saints**" - has to do with positional sanctification.

1) That every believer is a "**holy one.**"

b) The only requirement for "sainthood" is salvation!!!

2. Our position in Christ should motivate us to live holy, sinless lives.

B. BELIEVERS ARE BLESSED

1. *Ephesians 1:3*

2. 1 *Corinthians 6:9-11*

3. How are we blessed?

a) We are **Redeemed**

b) We are **Justified**

c) We are **Reconciled**

d) We are **Regenerated**

e) We are **Adopted**

f) We are **Sanctified**

g) We are **Glorified**

4. Why does God bless us? *Ephesians 1:6*

C. BELIEVERS WILL SUFFER

1. *Ephesians 3:8-13*

2. 2 *Timothy 3:12*

D. BELIEVERS ARE ADOPTED

1. *Ephesians 1:5*

a) "**adoption**" - means "placing as sons"

2. By adoption we who are saved have been given privileges and duties as adult sons as members of God's family.

CONCLUSION: "What are you?" "Where do you find your identity?" "Has your identity been stolen"?