

Identity Theft: Reclaiming the Truth of Who We are in Christ- Week 1

Introduction to the Study

Who does the Bible tell me I am in Christ? This is the question we will explore in the study. Each chapter we'll consider our identity in three ways:

- 1) Identity Theft: Expose our false notions of identity
- 2) Identity truth: Understand the biblical truth of our identity in Christ
- 3) Identity transformed: Reflect on what it looks like to live in our new (and true identity).

Our three enemies—the world, the flesh, and the Devil all seek to discourage and dishearten us from living in the fullness of who we are in Christ. The world wants to conform us into its mold, our flesh craves self-glory, and Satan reminds us of past sins and present failings in an attempt to paralyze our faith.

We need a biblical understanding of identity to guard our hearts and minds as we seek to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord.

“The fact that I am a woman does not make me a different kind of Christian, but the fact that I am a Christian makes me a different kind of woman”

Chapter 1 Notes- Free: Rescued by Grace

To serve God, to love God, to enjoy God is the sweetest freedom in the world – Thomas Watson

FREEDOM is foundational to the Christian's identity.

The Good News of the Gospel is we are no longer slaves to unrighteousness but are free!!!

Free from the bondage of the fall, free to be who God created us to be!!

If we are saved, we must fully understand how salvation brings freedom.

God *was* and *is* and *is to come*, salvation is the same.

Salvation from sin 3 categories:

Justification: was- We are saved- Freedom from sin's penalty

Sanctification: is- we are being saved- Freedom from sin's power

Glorification: is to come- we will be saved- Freedom from sin's presence

We must understand God's work in and through us to understand who He created us to be!!

Justification: Freedom from Sin's Penalty

When we came to saving faith in Christ, confessing our great need of him, and asking for forgiveness from the punishment we deserved, we were met with God's unequivocal 'yes'.

Christ bore the penalty we deserved!! Let that sink in!!!

We are JUSTIFIED before God our judge, free from the penalty of all our past, present, and future sins!!!

There is now NO condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Rom 8:1-2). Where before we stood condemned, we are now FREE!!

Sanctification: Freedom from Sin's Power

We are being MADE NEW!! God's grace is restoring us we are being set free from the power of sin with the help of the Holy Spirit!

Before we were justified, our broken wills were utterly subject to the power of sin. We chose sin at every turn.

NOW—the power of sin is BROKEN!! We should now be marked a growing desire to choose righteousness, and we have the power.

Once slaves to sin's power, we are FREE to serve God. However, we still sin, over time we learn to increasingly choose holiness.

Sanctification is ongoing. It's a slow-moving growth in holiness. We are being saved from sin's power, increasingly free from its pull.

Glorification: Freedom from Sin's Presence

We will fight to grow in holiness our entire earthly lives.

BUT—when we have run the race and fought the good fight, we will enter in to the presence of the Lord forever. We will be GLORIFIED!!!

In his presence, our soul rest will at last be complete, as sin and its devastation will cease to assail us. In our glorification we will at last be granted freedom from the presence of sin.

Our glorification is coming, we will be saved from sin's presence, completely free at last.

False Freedoms- Don't be fooled!!

License

- Freedom from sin's penalty is not a "get of jail free card"
- Relaxing God's commands instead of resting in Christ's perfect obedience to them
- Past failures may lead to shame that may tempt us by the false freedom of license

Legalism

- When we see our sanctification as something achieved by our own efforts.
- Confuse Spirit-enabled change with the false freedom of self-improvement and moralism.
- Tempting most for those with the sin of pride, who are good at keeping up appearances and following rules.

Escapism

- Misunderstanding our future freedom from in's presence means of escaping suffering
- Difference between being prepared for the Lord's return and being anxious for it.
- This is tempting when enduring trials

Rest. Labor. Hope

Sin is gradually overcome across a lifetime!!

Sanctification is HARD WORK. "Be killing sin or it is killing you" John Owen

Total freedom from sin is a future CERTAINTY!!

REST in our justification, we LABOR diligently in our sanctification, and we HOPE expectantly in our glorification.

Be assured of your justification. It *was*.

Be patient with your sanctification. It *is*.

Be eager in your glorification. It *is to come*.

For today remember: Christ is in you, and you are in Him. Your identity is securely anchored even as you are increasingly being transformed. Live each day in the joyful certainty that "if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).