

“I Am Accepted and Secure”

Series: Identity: Becoming Who We Are
May 21, 2017 – Sandra Giet

There are three primary drives in life: Survival, Acceptance and Significance.

A. Profound Truths About Your Identity That Can Change Your Life:

1. I Am Completely Accepted.

“He chose us in him before the creation of the world, to be holy and blameless in his sight by his love.” Ephesians 1:4

“I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself.” Jeremiah 31:3 (NLT)

2. I Am Valued.

“You are a people holy to the Lord your God... his treasured possession.” Deuteronomy 7:6

“Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you.... Isaiah 43:4

“You have been bought and paid for by Christ, so you belong to him...” 1 Corinthians 7:23 (LB)

B. We Have Difficulty Believing The Truth Because:

1. We Experience Our Weaknesses.

“...Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?” Romans 7:21-24

“Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!” Romans 7:25

Our Security is Found IN CHRIST

“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.” Col. 2:2-3

“Jesus treated us much better than we deserve. He made us acceptable to God and gave us the hope of eternal life.” Titus 3:7 (CEV)

2. There is Another Competing Voice at Work.

“He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” John 8:44

“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1

*“But in that coming day no weapon turned against you will succeed. You will silence every voice raised up to accuse you. These benefits are enjoyed by the servants of the Lord; their vindication will come from me. I, the Lord, have spoken!”
Isaiah 54:17 NLT*

What is a lie you have been believing?

What is the truth God wants you to know?

C. We Need to Practice Walking in the TRUTH.

“It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.” 3 John 3-4

“Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it.’ Isaiah 30:21

“I Am Accepted and Secure” Group Discussion

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Who are you? Where do you find your sense of self and self worth? It is a life defining question. In our current series we're focusing on the transforming power of discovering our true identity in Christ. This week we're exploring one of our primary needs in life, acceptance.

- 1. What is something you were chosen for and how did that make you feel?**
- 2. The need for acceptance drives us to do crazy things. What is something you have done for acceptance?**
- 3. In what things have you tried to find your security or acceptance in the past?**

Read Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

- 4. On what basis are we accepted by God?**
- 5. What does it mean to be “justified”?**

Read Romans 3:21-24

²¹ But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

“This is one of the most precious truths in all of scripture. When we are saved, God first and foremost changes our status. He looks at the shed blood of Christ and regards his death as the perfect work, the perfect sacrifice, that covered all of our sins—past, present, and future. We are justified—to use Paul’s language—even while we are sinners, even while we are continually falling short of God’s glory. In other words, our salvation does not depend on our works. There is no work we can do to get ourselves saved and no work we can do to keep ourselves saved. We are declared righteous before God our judge because Christ has paid the price for our sin. It’s that simple.”
Bible.org

6. How does this truth impact how we live?

Not only are we accepted by God in Christ, but we are also highly valued and loved.

"I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself." Jeremiah 31:3 (NLT)

“You are a people holy to the Lord your God... his treasured possession.”
Deuteronomy 7:6

7. Why is it hard for us to believe that we are so dearly loved and valued?

Read 3 John 3-4

“It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.”

8. What impact does walking in the truth have on our lives?

9. What can we do to practice walking more in truth rather than by our emotions?

Prayer: