

IDENTITY



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“My drive in life is from this horrible fear of being mediocre. And that's always pushing me. I push past one spell of it and discover myself as a special human being but then I feel I am still mediocre and uninteresting unless I do something else. Because even though I've become Somebody, I still have to prove that I'm Somebody. My struggle has never ended and it probably never will.” - Madonna, Vogue Magazine



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What beliefs are driving Madonna's behavior?



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Items- possessions or things

Duties- work, career, achievements

Others- relationships

Longings- desires or feelings

Sufferings- mental, physical illness or injury that begins to define you.



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Danica Patrick Had Her Breast Implants Removed After Significant Health Problems: 'The Wheels Came Off'

The former NASCAR driver says she "did every test that could be done" to figure out what was wrong before deciding to get her implants removed, and within hours she felt better



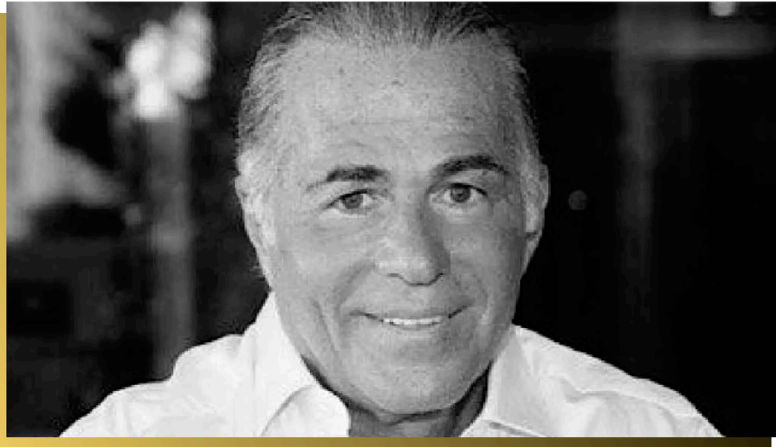
By [Julie Mazziotta](#) | April 29, 2022 03:44 PM



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Billionaire Dies During Penis Enlargement Surgery

By ARN Radio
7th March, 2019



A billionaire diamond trader has died during a procedure to enlarge his penis.



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Freedom comes when you rest in Jesus'
performance and not your own
Ephesians 1:6-10



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Paul spends three chapters unpacking what it means to be “in Christ” and then three chapters focusing on the behavioral change that flows out of our identity in Christ.



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“The Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone whose life is not.” Charles Spurgeon



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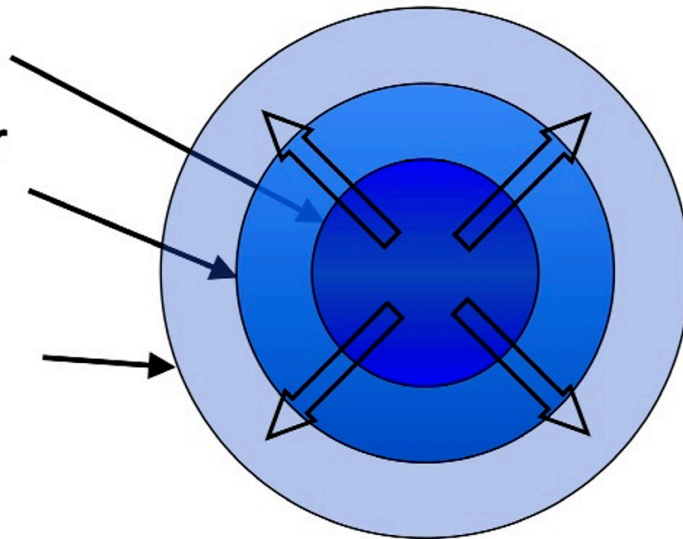
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Identity

**Worldview or
Mindset**

**Behavior or
Actions**



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Some false identities before I was a Christian

Sports

Academics

A pretty woman



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Some false identities I've struggled with as a Christian

My Christian life
Ministry
Spiritual Gifts
Parenting



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“The desire for successful children is a good thing that has become a bad thing because it’s become a ruling thing”. -Paul Tripp



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1. Too much focus on success.
2. Too much concern about reputation.
3. Too great a desire for control.
4. Too much emphasis on doing rather than being.
5. Too much temptation to make it personal.



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Our identity comes from Christ.

Vs. 6 We are loved

Vs. 7 We are redeemed and forgiven

Vs. 8 We are lavished with grace

Vs. 9-10 We are united to God's global plan of redemption



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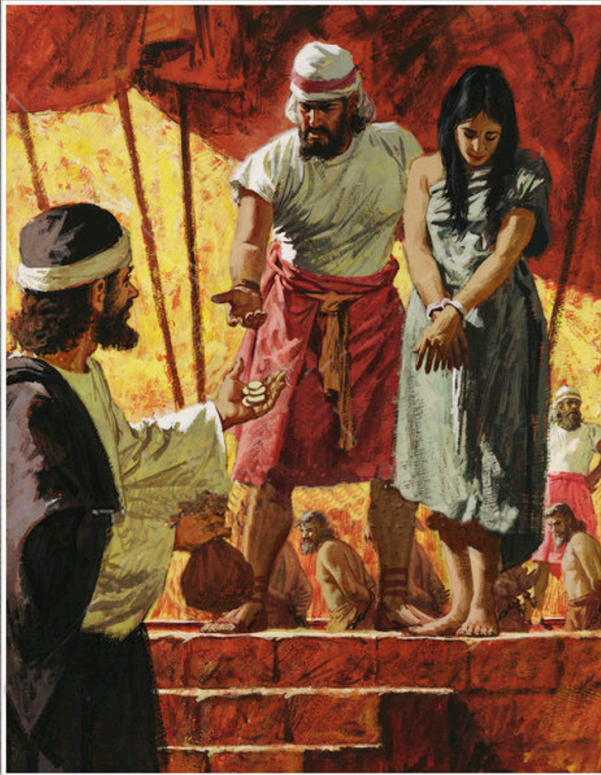
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Redemption means we have been set free by way of a price paid. We have been set free from the idols we used to serve and we get our identity from being united to Jesus.



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Picture by Lee Jun Won

OMG!

STORIES OF SCANDALOUS GRACE

CONGREGATION
HORRIFIED AT
PASTOR'S
CHOICE OF SPOUSE

LOCAL PREACHER BUYS WIFE OUT OF PROSTITUTION... AGAIN!!

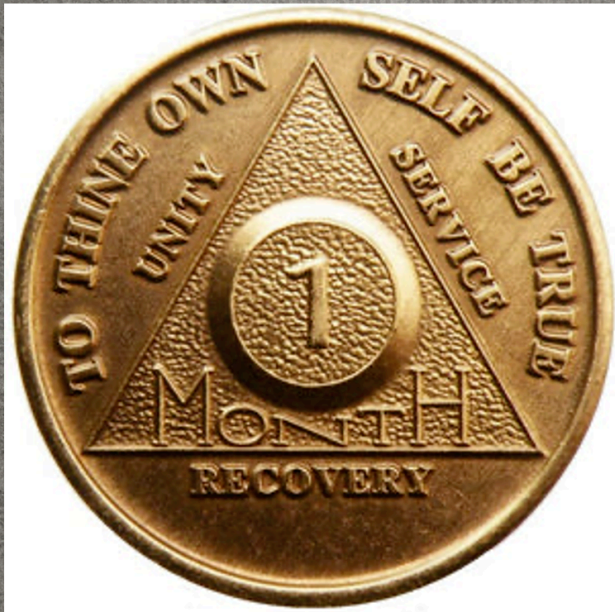


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If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.



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What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. Philippians 3:4-10



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Have you been redeemed from performance-based religion?



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“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30



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Ain't Got To Be Better Than'

Where is a man to find his worth?

Is it not being God's creation & the Rebirth?

Well, I grew up not feeling loved or valued much at all
Got to try to fit in; find worth from playing ball
Got to go to school and get good grades
Or you don't have value; your worth fades



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**Gotta be cool, make us all laugh, you know
Or your presence isn't needed; your worth is low
And the things you wear, you better look good
If you want to fit in with us; do as you should
When you talk; better talk the lingo, talk like us
Better be arrogant and tough; and make sure you cuss
Its not who you are it seems but what you got
What you drive, the size of your house, or lot**



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**Well, these are just a few things that are put on a man
If he wants to be respected, valued, be part of a clan
And we ain't even talkin bout what you got to be if you want
a girl**

**Gotta be better than; give her a whirl
Unconditional love from a girl seems like a joke
Gotta be all that she wants or you'll end up heart broke**



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**Well, commitment used to be in, but now its out
Girls want to be your god, that's what they're about
Me, Me, worship me, so I feel valued and have worth
Cause they deal with the same;
been used & abused since their birth
So the same vicious cycle continues and runs its course
Till someone comes to see the vanity; feels the remorse**



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**So, I'm glad I've been saved from tryin to be cool
Ain't got to be better than, live like a fool
It was the love of God that set me free
Shown through Christ on Calvary
Where He died on a cross to redeem humanity
Now I no longer have to live in the insanity**



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**Now I can be the person God created me to be; walk in
Liberty**

**Ain't got to try to be the person others want me to be
I've been chosen by God, predestined, called, elected you see
Been justified, goin to be glorified,
yeah, there's a place in heaven for me**

**Might not be welcome at your house but I am at His
Cause His loves unconditional; none of this pop & fizz**



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**This is all a result of being born again
And it's not the one who wills, or tries, or thinks he can
But its of His Sovereign Will, yeah, that's His plan
Yeah, the Sovereignty of God really kicks against your pride
You think somehow you had something to do with being justified
But it was all of Grace; apart from you
The good pleasure of His will, not anything you do**



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**I'm glad it was His choice and not up to you
You wouldn't have chose me, I wouldn't be on your crew
But that's cause you ain't God, you just a man
Making me a trophy of His grace was all His plan
Just like Zacchaeus, He came to my house cause He cared
for me
When you would have passed by; I would have stayed in
darkness, unable to see**



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**But this all relates to why I don't live for you
Cause I can never be better than; no matter what I do
Ain't got to perform and please you real good
But goin to do it J-style, just like I should
Well I don't always want to take the pain and crap
But I'll embrace it cause I have a Sovereign Lord; & turn
it into a rap**



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**Theirs a lot about me you don't know about
But you never tried to learn; get to know; figure out
So, I'll preach this Word, yeah, gonna shout**

**Ain't Gotta Be Better than
Ain't Gotta Be Better than
Ain't Gotta Be Better than**



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**Well many times the church acts like the world and that ain't right
We put a person's value to us by what he can do, what's his might
Well, why can't you see your unbiblical life
Why can't you see the pain you cause; all the strife
Maybe its not the real Jesus they won't come to
But the wrong Jesus that they see in me & you**



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**When people come in are we sizing them up
To see what one day they'll be able to do for all of us
What if they can never produce, sing well, or lead
What if they're here to remind us of our need
To care for people who are helpless and harassed
Who don't know the answers to the questions we've asked
Maybe they'll never be able to serve like we want, you know,
world class
Will we still give them value or their worth will we smash**



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**James 2 condemns those having faith with partiality
But says to love one another; fulfill the law of Liberty
Having respect of persons; God calls sin
Some of the people we dishonor God lives in**

**1st John has a word for you too, in case you didn't know
Bout saying with your mouth you love, but having no deeds show
Some people think they're better than cause of their pedigree
But if you're unaware that's living like a Pharisee**



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**Some Jews thought they were bad cause they were boys of Abraham
But Jesus said I can raise up boys of Abe from stones if that was my
plan**

**God doesn't need the mighty, noble, or wise
But chooses the weak, foolish, base, those despised
Ain't nobody goin to be runnin their can
When they stand before the Awesome Son of Man
Ain't no body going to be boastin cause its about His Glory
Every good gift is from Above; Salvation is His story**



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**The Apostle Paul had to deal with similar stuff
From the Corinthian church, who thought they were buff
He chose not to boast in himself or even his gift
But boast in the Cross, the Name of Christ he did lift
Chose to boast in his weaknesses, persecutions, and distress
And let the power of Christ rest on him; so he was blessed
Well, they said his letters might be good but his speech ain't so
And his physical presence, not lookin so hot after all those blows**



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**But it ain't about the way you look, talk, or sound
Don't matter if you're tall, short, thin, or round
You don't find your worth either from the color of your skin
You don't find your worth from how much money you bring in
Its all about God, why don't you look at Him
Then your view of people might not be so dim
And as you love Him, you'll love people too
And we won't have to be better than, measure up to you**



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**So, let me be me and break off this yoke
That you put on me and all the other folk
I'm not bein rebellious cause I don't want to do it your way
But I want to do it J-style; because I'm J
Not you or anyone else but created to be me**



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**Thats why I don't have to be better than; now you see
My worth comes from God, I'm not a throw away
You ain't my potter and I ain't your clay
If you havn't got it yet; I ain't got to be better than
My worth comes from God and I'm His man**



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Freedom comes when you rest in Jesus' performance and not your own



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