

OVERCOMING IDENTITY DIFFUSION

RESTORE: Week 3

October 19, 2025

Pastor Brian

"Tell me about yourself." I AM _____.

Three Strata of Identity Formation

- 1) Given.
- 2) Chosen.
- 3) Core.

**YOUR SELF-IDENTITY IS THE SINGLE GREATEST CONTRIBUTOR
TO YOUR MENTAL HEALTH.**

The Foundation of Our Identity

"Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over [everything]...So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:26–27, NLT)

Where It All Went Wrong

"At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves. When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees." (Genesis 3:7, NLT)

The Fallout: Identity Crisis

1. Our self-CONCEPT became confused.
"...their eyes were opened..."
2. Our self-WORTH became corrupted.
"...[they] felt shame at their nakedness..."
3. We became self-CONSCIOUS and tried to cover up our brokenness.
"...they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves..."
4. We became self-CENTERED and turned on each other.
"It was the woman you put here with me," the man said..." (Genesis 3:12, CEV)

RECOVERING MY TRUE IDENTITY

"But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy." (1 Peter 2:9–10, NLT)

In Christ...

1. I AM FULLY ACCEPTED.

"...you have been chosen by God himself..." (1 Peter 2:9, The Living Bible)

BECAUSE GOD CHOSE ME AND JESUS CHANGED ME.

"Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes." (Ephesians 1:4, NLT)

"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. I AM EXTREMELY VALUABLE.

"But you are...a holy nation, a people belonging to God..." (1 Peter 2:9, NIV84)

"For you are a people holy to the LORD your God...his treasured possession." (Deuteronomy 7:6, NIV)

GOD: *"...you are precious to me..." (Isaiah 43:4, GNB)*

BECAUSE GOD MADE ME AND JESUS PAID FOR ME.

"Look at the ravens. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than any birds!" (Luke 12:24, NLT)

"You have been bought and paid for by Christ, so you belong to him..." (1 Corinthians 7:23, The Living Bible)

3. I AM TOTALLY FORGIVEN.

"...at one time you did not know God's mercy, but now you have received his mercy." (1 Peter 2:10, GNB)

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus," (Romans 8:1, NIV)

BECAUSE FORGIVENESS IS

GOD'S ALIGNMENT AND JESUS' ASSIGNMENT.

"I am the God who forgives your sins, and I do this because of who I am. I will not hold your sins against you." (Isaiah 43:25, GNB)

"For by the blood of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the grace of God," (Ephesians 1:7, GNB)

FORGIVENESS SEMINAR

Sat 9AM-11:30AM

4. I AM ETERNALLY LOVED.

"Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people..." (1 Peter 2:10, NLT)

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

BECAUSE GOD IS LOVE AND I WAS MADE FOR ABOVE.

"And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them." (1 John 4:16, NIV)

You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in Thee.
Augustine of Hippo 5th c. AD

ACTION STEPS

Forgiveness Seminar

2nd Base (Growing in Christ) **THIS WED 10/22 5:30**

1st Base (Discovering Christ) 11/02