

**Courageous Part 3**  
**Identity: More Than Meets the Eye**  
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**I. Introduction**

- a. Series recap
  - i. Part 1: Braveheart – to be spiritually strong
  - ii. Part 2: Unashamed – shame can lead to feeling inadequate or embarrassed
- b. Today, Part 3 will cover our identity, which is often determined through external sources (i.e., magazines, pop culture, social media) in the world.

**II. Biblical Examples of Forgotten Identity**

**Numbers 13:30-33 AMP**

<sup>30</sup> But Caleb tried to quiet the people as they stood before Moses. “Let’s go at once to take the land,” he said. “We can certainly conquer it!” <sup>31</sup> But the other men who had explored the land with him disagreed. “We can’t go up against them! They are stronger than we are!” <sup>32</sup> So they spread this bad report about the land among the Israelites: “The land we traveled through and explored will devour anyone who goes to live there. All the people we saw were huge. <sup>33</sup> We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak. Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that’s what they thought, too!”

- a. God will often give us instructions to do what seems utterly impossible to do.
- b. The Bible says, in verse 33, the leaders felt like grasshoppers in the sight of their enemies.
  - i. A grasshopper is a bug at the bottom of the food chain that is often used for bait.
- c. They forgot the promises and provision of God.
  - i. God made a covenant with them, parted the Red Sea, provided “manna” from heaven in the desert and much more.
- d. The unbelief and fear of this generation kept them from ever entering the promised land.
- e. We can become distracted from our purpose and identity by focusing on faults and weaknesses.
- f. They are too many people focusing on their faults and weaknesses while constantly being critical of themselves because they don’t know who they are.
  - i. I.e. losing temper, struggling with addiction, keeping a diet, not being further along professionally and personally as expected.
  - ii. This internal battle can lead to feeling unhappy and put off place.

- g. God never intended for us to go through life feeling inadequate, not knowing who we are like the children of Israel.

### **III. Works in Progress**

- a. We must learn to accept ourselves as we are, faults and all.
- b. Yet, we are not a finished product nor perfect.
- c. We can enjoy the process while God is still working on us.

### **2 Corinthians 3:18 AMP**

<sup>18</sup> "... we are [being]changed...from glory to glory..."

- d. We all have weaknesses and areas in our lives that we can work on.
  - i. However, getting down about shortcomings does not help us improve.
- e. "The problem with not liking yourself is you're the only person you can't get away from."
  - i. You can get away from everyone else
- f. God wants to know that our identity is not wrapped up in careers or possessions; we are much more than that.
- g. A lot of times people think they will have a better idea of who they are as soon as they...
  - i. I.e., lose weight, control temper, break their addiction, get rid of guilt and heaviness, etc.
- h. The truth is we have to feel good about ourselves where we are because God will most likely show us something else we need to improve after successful changes.
  - i. It's a never-ending cycle because we are not perfect.

### **Hebrews 12:2 AMP**

<sup>2</sup> [looking away from all that will distract us and] focusing our eyes on Jesus, who is the Author and Perfecter of faith....

### **IV. Who Does God Say You Are?**

- a. We are the apple of His eye, a masterpiece, a prize possession; fearfully and wonderfully made.
- b. The accuser will do his part to remind us of something that we aren't doing right or up to par in certain areas.
- c. If we're going to be courageous and know our identity, we must be bold to:
  - i. Tell ourselves, "I'm done being against myself."
  - ii. Tell the accuser, "I'm a child of the most High God" and "I'm redeemed, restored, forgiven."
- d. The enemy is not going to stop trying to make us feel bad because we speak life over ourselves.
  - i. He might still try to tempt us with thoughts such as:
    - 1. You're still a hypocrite

- 2. You can't feel good about yourself
- 3. You still struggle
- 4. You still have that weakness
- ii. At these times, we have to be courageous to know our identity lies in Christ Jesus.
- e. The enemy comes to steal, kill and destroy because God has created you in His image and likeness.
- f. Our destiny is too important and time is too valuable to sit around thinking about everything that's wrong because it can steal our joy, energy and anointing.
- g. God reveals more and more of our identity in time *on purpose*, so that we can depend on Him to reveal who we really are.

## V. God's Perspective of Our Identity

### Jeremiah 1:5 NIV

<sup>5</sup>“Before I formed you in the womb I knew<sup>[a]</sup> you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

- a. Before we were born God knew us and approved us to know our identity.
  - i. We were not approved with conditions or expectations of being perfect.
- b. Jesus is the way, the truth and the light who knows our true identity.
  - i. God will help us find our way in identifying yourself.
  - ii. He will give us the truth of who we really are.
  - iii. He will shed light on all the dark areas, so that we can identify them and overcome them.
- c. Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist and acknowledged by a voice that came from heaven saying, “This is my beloved son in whom I’m well pleased.”
  - i. Jesus hadn’t performed one miracle at this time.
    - 1. Hadn’t opened any blind eyes, turned water into wine, nor raised Lazarus from the dead
- d. God was pleased with Him for who He was and not for what He had done.
- e. If we can’t get along with ourselves, then we can’t get along with anyone else including God.
  - i. Knowing our true identity helps us go to God in boldness and love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

## VI. Identifying Our True Identity

- a. We find affirmation of God's love for us in His Word.
  - i. This process may take time and doesn't happen over night.
- b. Trust the process

- i. The Bible refers to God as the potter and we are the clay.
  - 1. The Word of God is like water necessary to make clay more pliable.
  - 2. The more water we add, the more we become pliable.
  - 3. The more pliable we become, the more we are able to change into how God sees us.
- ii. He is the one molding and making us, which means He controls how long the process takes.
- iii. Any resistance we give, slows the process.
- c. Get connected in the local church.