

“Fully Alive”
He Loves Me Series - Part 4
Pastor Lester Zimmerman

Today we wrap up the series we have been doing called **“He Loves Me”**. This has been a series about affirming our spiritual identity.

Pastor Brian Coles began the series by talking about being – **Fully Accepted**. When we understand just how much God loves us, we can find healing and freedom from rejection.

Pastor Brain Flewelling followed that by sharing what it means to be – **Fully Forgiven**. Through confession we find God’s forgiveness and are able to let go of guilt and shame.

Last Sunday was Baptism Sunday and I shared briefly about being -Fully New in Christ. We are new creations with a new nature and new identity as sons and daughters of the Most-High God.

Today I want to explore what it means to be Fully Alive in Christ. What it means to fully enjoy and fully live in our new identity as *fully accepted, fully forgiven, fully new, and fully alive* sons and daughters of God.

The reason we our taking time to address the issue of our identity is because it affects so many areas of our life. A lot of our struggles are connected to how we view ourselves.

- It affects our mental and spiritual health, our relationships, and the decisions we make.

Being overly concerned about what other people think about us also has a powerful impact on shaping our identity. Too often we judge our worth and value by the opinions of others.

We become obsessed with how we look, and we are constantly comparing ourselves with those around us.

So much in life for all of us is tied to our identity. Identity is so personal and so sacred to each person.

One of the big issues in our society today is **Identity Theft**. We feel violated when someone steals our identity.

- EX: – hacked my email – sends out emails in my name asking for money
- Someone stole my credit card information – and started making charges

Well, **the devil has stolen our identity and Jesus came to restore it back to us**. The devil has lied to us, dumped shame on us and made us feel worthless and insignificant.

- When we surrender our lives to Jesus, he breaks us free from all the lies and gives us a brand-new identity in him.

How we view ourselves is so important both in the natural as well as the spiritual.

This is so important because how we perceive ourselves affects our behavior. The devil knows if he can warp our identity, he can trip us up and limit our potential.

For instance,

If we see ourselves as weak, we will give in more

If we see ourselves as failures, we will fail more

If we see ourselves as poor, we will live with a poverty mindset

If we see ourselves as victims, we will continue to act like victims

If we see ourselves as inadequate, we will walk in fear

If we see ourselves as having little worth, we will live in insecurity

If we see ourselves as sinners, we will act like sinners

The opposite is also true

If we see ourselves as strong, we will resist temptations

If we see ourselves as winners, we will get back up if we are knocked down

If we see ourselves as blessed, we will have a positive outlook on life

If we see ourselves as overcomers, we will rise above our circumstances

If we see ourselves as adequate, we will walk in faith

If we see ourselves as having great worth, we will be secure in who we are

If we see ourselves as saints, we will act like saints

To live *fully alive*, we need to reject the internal and external lies and embrace who God says we are, and we need to embrace the empowering work of the Holy Spirit to help us live the transformed life.

Keys to a healthy identity:

- 1. My core identity needs to be grounded in how God sees me.**

Here is how God sees us this morning:

- **Father God sees us wearing Jesus' robe of righteousness.**



PICTURE OF ROBE....

When we accept Jesus as our savior, we are given a new identity and a spiritual robe that covers our sin and shame. It's called a robe of righteousness.

Put on ROBE God doesn't look at me through the lens of my past sins and failures or even my present struggles. **He sees me covered in Jesus righteousness.**

- Because I am made righteous in Jesus, God sees me as holy and pure, as if I had never sinned.

Isaiah 61:10 I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Romans 3:22 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

Righteousness is my new identity. God wants me to see myself as he does. Not as a condemned, shameful sinner. But one who is holy and clean. This is powerful!

This is not a license to sin but a gift to live up to. A new desire to live out.

How does God see us this morning?

- **Father God sees us as his son or daughter – he chose us and adopted us.**

2 Corinthians 6:18 "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

This is so powerful. **He chose ME. He chose YOU.** He wanted you.

- Feeling wanted and valued is so core to a healthy identity.

God chose you because he really likes you and wants you to be a part of his family. He chose you to be his son or daughter because he wants a relationship with you and wants you to be with him forever.

Our identity as God's much loved son or daughter is so powerful in shaping our identity and how we approach life.

The Second Key:

2. Valuing myself and others as God does is freeing and powerful.

You are more than an insignificant social security number among the masses of people on the planet. **You are God's prized possession!**

Did you ever have a prized possession? Maybe you made it or inherited it or saved for years to finally buy it. But it is yours and you really cherish it as something unique and special. That's how God sees you!

- **Listen, God doesn't make junk and you are really special and valuable to God.**

Your value is not determined by your looks, your race, your parents, where you were born, your abilities, how smart you are, how much money you have, how

successful are, how many friends you have on Facebook, whether you have a boyfriend or girlfriend, how popular you are, or how good you are at sports or at school.

Your value is not determined by what has happened to you or by how bad or good you have been. Your value is not determined by how much you are struggling right now.

- **The value of something is determined by who its designer is and how much someone is willing to pay for it.**

A purse or sneakers or clothing may be made of the same material but if it has a designer label on it, it is worth more. If my watch says Rolex instead of Timex it is worth a lot more.

Several years ago, I was in China – found this old pocket watch in a small market.

- It was made in Switzerland and may be worth a lot of money – depending on its maker.

Listen, the God of the whole universe designed you. Your maker is the most famous designer of all.

You are handmade by God – You are made in the image of God – you reflect his likeness. You come from royalty. You are special. You are loved by the one who created you.

- **You are his masterpiece** and he is proud of you.
- **You are of great value.** – You are so valuable that God was willing to give his one and only son to die on the cross so he could have you as his own priceless possession. **The highest price in all the universe was paid for you.** - **That's how valuable you are!**

You are not a random product of evolution. A baby in the womb is not just a fetus or a blob of tissue. Every baby in the womb and out of the womb is deeply loved and valued by God who designed him or her. **Psalms 139**

Peter describes our new identity this way...

1 Peter 2:9-10 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. NLT

You are chosen, royal, holy, God's very own possession! You have a new identity as loved and belonging to God.

3. I live out my new identity with the help of the Holy Spirit. Romans 8

- He reminds me who I am when I forget
- He renews my way of thinking. We have old mind patterns. He gives me the strength I need to deal with my stuff so I can walk in my new identity.
- He helps me live as an overcomer. To live fully alive.

SO, WHO AM I? WHO ARE YOU? What is your true identity? Read together..

- **I am a chosen, adopted son/daughter of God.**
- **I am part of a royal family which makes me royalty.**
- **I am righteous and fully accepted in his sight.**
- **I am fully forgiven and made new by the Spirit that lives in me.**
- **I am God's priceless, prized possession.**
- **I bring great pleasure to God simply because he loves me.**
- **I am accepted and loved not for what I do or don't do, but for who I am.**

That's who I am this morning and that's who you are if you have said yes to Jesus. Because of him we can now live - **fully alive.**

Have you been made alive in Christ? Are you a child of God this morning or still living in your old identity in your own strength? God has so much more for you....

Closing Prayer/Prayer Ministry

