



Part 1: Identity Crisis

Matthew 3:16-4:3

Pastor Mike McClure, Jr.

Matthew 3:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, ¹⁷ and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

Matthew 4:1-3 (NASB)

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

Identity Theft

Spiritual Identity Theft

John 10:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Satan wants to steal our **identity in Christ**.

- I Am Accepted in Christ.
- I Am Secure in Christ.
- I Am Significant in Christ.

I Am **Accepted** in Christ.

John 1:12 (NLT)

¹² But to all who **believed** him and **accepted** him, he gave the right to become children of God.



Romans 5:1 (NASB)

¹ Therefore, having been **justified by faith**, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Colossians 2:8-10 (NASB)

⁸ See to it that no one **takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception**, according to the tradition of men, according to the **elementary principles of the world**, rather than according to Christ. ⁹ For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, ¹⁰ and in Him you **have been made complete**, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

MAJOR KEY ALERT!!!



Jesus Christ is the Source of reality and truth, the very presence of God Himself.

He (God) is the Source to understanding the world; **the world is not** the source to understanding Him.

I Am **Secure** in Christ

Romans 8:1-4 (NLT)

¹ So now there is **no condemnation** for those **who belong to Christ Jesus**. ² And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. ³ **The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins.** ⁴ He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

The Devil uses SIN to rob you of your Identity

Romans 8:31 (NLT)

³¹ What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? **If God is for us, who can ever be against us?**



Romans 8:31-39 (MSG)

³¹ So, what do you think? **With God on our side like this, how can we lose?** ³² If **God didn't hesitate** to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us? ³³ And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen? ³⁴ Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us—who was raised to life for us!—is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us. ³⁵ **Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us?** There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture: ³⁶ They kill us in cold blood because they hate you. We're sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one. ³⁷ **None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us.** ³⁸ I'm **absolutely convinced that nothing**—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, ³⁹ high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely *not hing* can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.

I Am **Significant** in Christ

Matthew 5:13-16 (MSG)

¹³ "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. ¹⁴ "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. ¹⁵ If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. ¹⁶ Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

Matthew 3:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, ¹⁷ and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

After **Confirmation** comes **Confrontation**.



Matthew 4:3 (NASB)

³ And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the **Son of God**, command that these stones become bread."

Identity

Insecurities

IF

When you don't know who you are
you'll act like what you've seen.

**Healthy overcoming making moves
evolving.**

Matthew 4:2 (NLT)

² For **forty days and forty nights he fasted** and became very hungry. You will not float toward health or success you have to do the work!

**You will not float toward health or
success, you have to do the work!**



Matthew 4:3 (NLT)

³ During that time the devil came and said to him, “**If you are the Son of God**, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.”

James 2:19 (GW)

¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. That's fine! The demons also believe that, and they tremble with fear.

1st Adam vs. Last Adam

1 Corinthians 15:45 (NLT)

⁴⁵ The Scriptures tell us, “The first man, Adam, became a living person.” But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit.

Since You are God's beloved Son, why doesn't Your Father feed You?

Why does He put You into this terrible wilderness?

Your Mind is Playing Tricks On You!

When we put our physical needs ahead of our spiritual needs, we sin.

When we allow circumstances to dictate our actions, instead of following God's will, we sin.

John 5:30 (GW)

³⁰ I can't do anything on my own. As I listen {to the Father}, I make my judgments. My judgments are right because I don't try to do what I want but what the one who sent me wants.

John 6:38 (GW)

³⁸ I haven't come from heaven to do what I want to do. I've come to do what the one who sent me wants me to do.

Disconnection is the last phase to Identity Theft.



Matthew 4:4 (NASB)

⁴ But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"

Scriptures to Fight against the Enemy

When you doubt yourself...	Philippians 4:13 (NKJV) ¹³ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
Feeling weak...	Isaiah 40:29 (NLT) ²⁹ He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless.
Need some doors opened & walls knocked down...	Isaiah 45:2 (NASB) ² "I will go before you and make the rough places smooth; I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars.
Got some haters...	Exodus 14:14 (NASB) ¹⁴ "The LORD will fight for you while you keep silent."
Feel like you always get caught up in something...	James 4:7 (NLT) ⁷ So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7-10 (MSG) ⁷ So let God work his will in you. Yell a loud no to the Devil and watch him scamper. ⁸ Say a quiet yes to God and he'll be there in no time. Quit dabbling in sin. Purify your inner life. Quit playing the field. ⁹ Hit bottom, and cry your eyes out. The fun and games are over. Get serious, really serious. ¹⁰ Get down on your knees before the Master; it's the only way you'll get on your feet.