

Summary

This sermon explores the powerful truth of our identity in Christ, using the story of Perdita from Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale" as an illustration. Just as Perdita was always a princess even before she knew it, believers are already children of God the moment they are born again. The enemy cannot change who we are in Christ; He can only distort our understanding of that identity. Our next step in faith is not becoming someone different, but discovering who we already are in Christ. The pastor emphasizes that what we believe will shape what we confess, and what we confess has real power when it is rooted in God's Word and His direction. Through key themes of identity, faith-filled confession, obedience, and worship, the sermon calls believers to stop living defeated lives and start declaring what God has already said about them. Whether facing sickness, financial need, or spiritual attack, the answer is found in knowing the Word, praying it, confessing it, and living by faith in the promises God has already given us as His heirs.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today as Your children, grateful for the identity You have given us through Jesus Christ. As we open Your Word and discuss what it means to truly know who we are in You, we ask that You quiet every distraction and every lie the enemy has whispered over us. Holy Spirit, open our hearts and our minds to receive what You want each of us to take away from this time together. Let this not just be a conversation, but a moment of revelation. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one nickname or title someone has given you over the years that you actually liked, and why did it mean something to you?

Key Verses

- Galatians 4:4-7
- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Mark 11:22-23

- James 5:16
- Romans 8:37-39
- 1 John 4:4
- Psalm 23:1-6

Questions

- The pastor used the story of Perdita to illustrate that she was always a princess, even before she knew it. In what ways do you think Christians struggle to accept an identity that God has already given them, and what do you think holds people back from believing it?
- Galatians 4:7 (ESV) says, 'So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.' How does seeing yourself as an heir rather than a slave change the way you approach your relationship with God day to day?
- The pastor said, 'The enemy cannot change who you are in Christ. He can only distort your understanding of who you are in Christ.' Have you ever experienced a season where the enemy distorted your view of yourself? What helped you find your way back to the truth?
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) says, 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.' What does it practically look like to live as a new creation when old habits, memories, or shame try to pull you back?
- The sermon touched on the power of confessing God's Word over our lives. What is the difference between biblical confession rooted in God's Word and direction versus the kind of 'name it and claim it' approach the pastor warned against?
- The pastor shared the story of Brother Andrew praying for God to make 'seeing eyes blind' as He smuggled Bibles behind the Iron Curtain. What does that kind of bold, obedient faith look like in your own life, and what would it take for you to pray with that level of trust?
- The pastor described praise and worship as the number one antidote to spiritual attack. Why do you think worship is so powerful in the middle of a battle, and can you share a time when worship shifted something for you in a difficult season?
- The sermon closed with a challenge to confess Psalm 23 six times before the next gathering. Why do you think repetition and declaration of Scripture matters, and how might praying Scripture regularly change the way you see yourself and your circumstances?

Life Application

This week, commit to reading and confessing Psalm 23 out loud at least six times before your group meets again. As you do, make it personal. Pray it over yourself, your family, and anyone you know who is struggling. Pay attention to how your perspective shifts as you declare what God has already promised. If you want to go deeper, choose one additional verse from the sermon (such as Romans 8:37 or 1 John 4:4) and write it somewhere you will see it every day, speaking it aloud as a declaration of who God says you are.

Key Takeaways

- Your identity in Christ is not something you earn or grow into. It is given to you the moment you are born again, and the enemy cannot take it away. He can only distort your understanding of it.
- What you truly believe will eventually come out of your mouth, especially under pressure. Filling your heart with God's Word ensures that what comes out aligns with His truth rather than fear or defeat.
- Faith-filled confession is powerful, but it must be rooted in God's Word and His direction, not personal desire or wishful thinking. Speaking what God has already said is how we align ourselves with His promises.
- Obedience is a key that unlocks the blessings of God. Whether it involves giving, following an unusual instruction, or stepping out in faith, obedience positions us to receive what God has promised.
- Praise and worship is the most powerful response to spiritual attack. When we worship in the middle of difficulty, we shift our focus from the battle to the God who has already won it, and He shows up as our banner, our peace, and our ever-present help.

Ending Prayer

Lord, thank You for this time together and for the truth that we are Your children, not because of anything we have done, but because of everything Jesus has done. We declare today that the enemy does not get to define us. Your Word defines us. We are justified, redeemed, loved, and more than conquerors through Christ who loves us. As we leave this place, let the truth of who You say we are settle deep into our hearts. Where there is doubt, bring faith. Where there is shame, bring freedom. Where there is fear, bring the

peace that passes understanding. We choose to walk by faith and not by sight, and we choose to confess Your Word over our lives and the lives of those we love. In the mighty name of Jesus, amen.