



## Why Are So Many Confused About Their Identity? Pastor Patty Campbell

### WHO ARE YOU?

**Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)** – *For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*

You came to this planet with a purpose.

You came here with a plan for your life.

You came here with an assignment and your responsibility is to find out what it is.

Jesus had an earthly assignment to fulfill but had he not been certain of His identity he could not have fulfilled it.

- The Father spoke out of Heaven at the baptism of Jesus and declared, “This is my beloved son in Whom I am well pleased.”
  - The enemy came to challenge His identity in the wilderness.
  - Jesus went to the temple and declared from scripture who He was and the people challenged His identity.

### THE ENEMY WILL ALWAYS CHALLENGE YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST!

#### Two questions as we open up Lesson 2

1. **What do you believe about yourself?**
2. **Why is it important that you have the right self-perception?**
  - Because your belief about your own identity and worth determines the choices you make in life. Choices have benefits or consequences. We must learn who we are; our identity as children of God, what He enables us to do and the life he has empowered us to live.

**Paul warned us in Ephesians 4:14-15 (NASB)** – <sup>14</sup>*We are no longer to be children, **tossed here and there** by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;* <sup>15</sup>*but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ.*

**We can’t be like gullible children** – easily duped by whoever’s making the loudest noise.

#### **We need to GROW UP! Mature in Christ.**

- A mature believer stands on the solid foundation of TRUTH found in the word
- Immature people build their life on shifting sands – constantly changing – changing so often it’s difficult to deal with.
  - A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.



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### Building on a Solid Foundation

**Matthew 7:24-27 (NLT)** – <sup>24</sup>“**Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.** <sup>25</sup>Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. <sup>26</sup>**But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand.** <sup>27</sup>When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, **it will collapse with a mighty crash.**”

### IDENTIFYING SHIFTING SANDS

(These make a lot of noise but are not reliable sources of truth)

We’re going to look at the shifting sands:

- FAULTY FEELINGS
- DECEITFUL DESIRES
- OSCILATING OPINIONS OF OTHERS

#### I. FEELINGS ARE FAULTY

**Feelings are powerful communicators but not reliable sources of truth.**

- JUST BECAUSE SOMETHING FEELS TRUE DOESN’T MAKE IT TRUE.

#### A. WHERE DO FEELINGS COME FROM?

We are 3-part beings – Body – Soul - & Spirit

I am a spirit, I have a soul, and I live in a body.

1. **Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost – you’re a mobile sanctuary.  
YOUR BODY CAN AFFECT YOUR FEELINGS.**

It’s got to stay well-tuned and well fueled or else you can wind up in the ditch – off the side of the road – or over a cliff!

**1 Corinthians 9:27 (ERV)** – “*It is my own body I fight to make it do what I want. I do this so that I won’t miss getting the prize myself after telling others about it.*”

2. **Your SOUL is made up of your mind, your will and your emotions.  
YOUR SOUL CAN IMPACT YOUR FEELINGS.**



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- The example of Jesus in the garden
    - He knows the arrest is coming. He knows the whipping post is coming. He knows He's going to be ridiculed, beaten, mocked and crucified and killed.
    - He says, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death."
    - His feelings were being informed by the knowledge of what was coming.
  - What you think in your head and believe in your heart will affect your emotions.
3. **Your SPIRIT is the part of you that is the real you. The eternal you. I am a spirit, I live in a body, and I have a soul. It's the part of me that is born again. Your Spirit can affect your feelings.**
- When you mess up and do something that you know was wrong, and against God, it can really impact your feelings.
    - David sinned and he felt a tremendous, painful loss of joy.
      - "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation."
  - a. God can use feelings of peace and feelings of conviction in our spirit to guide us.

**Colossians 3:15 (NLT)** – *And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts.*

### **B. TRUTH HAS TO RULE OVER FEELINGS**

Feelings are shifting sands – they are not reliable.

They are not trustworthy instruments to guide our lives.

**Colossians 3:16 (NLT)** – *Let the **message** about Christ, in all its richness, **fill** your lives. **Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives.***

- **The filter of His word must be the plumb line of truth.**
    - If feelings and the Word of God do not align, we must trust His Word!
    - Feelings are subject to change but His Word NEVER CHANGES.
1. **Many people foolishly let their feelings (regardless of the source) determine what they believe to be true about who they are and what is morally right for them.**



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- a. If they I don't feel loved, I must not be loved.
  - b. If something feels good, then it must be good.
- This line of thinking is completely unreliable.**

**A lie will feel true if you choose to believe it.**

2. **Your feelings will follow your hearts beliefs.**
3. **It doesn't matter how long you believe a lie; it will not make it true!**
4. **The dangers of following your "heart".**

**Jeremiah 17:9 (NLT)** – *"The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?"*

**Proverbs 28:26 (AMP)** – *He who trusts confidently in his own heart is a [dull, thickheaded] fool, But he who walks in [skillful and godly] wisdom will be rescued.*

### C. DESIRES ARE DECEITFUL

**Galatians 5:16-17 & 19-23 (NLT)** – <sup>16</sup>*So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. <sup>17</sup>The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. **These two forces are constantly fighting each other**, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. <sup>19</sup>When you **follow the desires of your sinful nature**, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, <sup>21</sup>envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup>But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!*

**Desires are deceitful – filter them through the TRUTH of God's word.**

### D. Other's Oscillating Opinions – Opinions are constantly shifting

Jesus didn't base His identity on what others said or thought about Him.



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- Some listened and followed him
  - Others questioned and angrily opposed everything he did.
1. **You're going to have people who are for you and people who are against you**
  2. **You cannot allow others to define you.**
    - a. Words are SEEDS – what do you get when you plant a seed and water it?  
The harvest of the seed.
    - b. We tend to replay the negative things said about us hundreds of times in our minds which waters the seed.
    - c. Don't allow others to define you.

We are not supposed to go through life with fear of failure, fear of rejection, fear of looking stupid, fear of being replaced, unloved or abandoned, all of these are tormenting

**CLOSING:** Be careful about grounding your identity in fluctuating things. You should be DEFINED by God, not by changing feelings, deceitful desires, Facebook likes and comments, or other's opinions of you.

Bonus Scriptures:

**2 Corinthians 10:3-6 (MSG)** – <sup>3-6</sup>*The world is unprincipled. It's dog-eat-dog out there! The world doesn't fight fair. But we don't live or fight our battles that way—never have and never will. The tools of our trade aren't for marketing or manipulation, but they are for demolishing that entire massively corrupt culture. We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ. Our tools are ready at hand for clearing the ground of every obstruction and building lives of obedience into maturity.*

**Matthew 7:24-27 (MSG)** – <sup>24-25</sup>*“These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock. <sup>26-27</sup>“But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don't work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards.”*