

Southside Baptist Church
VBS Parent Tool Kit – Identity - Who am I in Christ?
Session 2 Outline – 7-17-23
Quotes taken from the Search for Significance

1. Introduction:

a. Why is understanding and teaching about identity so important?

- 1) Tonight, I want to build a case for the importance of understanding first as a believer/parent who you are in Christ, your true identity, along with why it is so important to teach these truths to your children.

2. Passages of Scripture to consider concerning Identity:

1) Ephesians 1:3-14 –

- a) “**spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ**” –
- b) “**holy, and without blame before him in love**” –
- c) “**adoption of children**” –
- d) “**accepted in the beloved**” -
- e) “**redemption**” – redeemed.
- f) “**forgiveness of sins**” what sins? All sins? Even future sins?
- g) “**obtained an inheritance**” – we are heirs
- h) “**sealed with the holy Spirit of promise**” –

2) Philippians 3:1-14 –

- a) As you read through this, think about identity – you can read who Paul was before Christ and then what happened and who he is and his purpose now that he is in Christ.

3) II Corinthians 5:17 – At salvation you were placed in Christ.

4) Romans 8:1 – No condemnation to those who are in Christ.

3. What is identity?

1) My Identity, is it...

- a) Who someone says you are? Who you say you are? Who God says you are?

2) **IDENTITY** - Self-worth, self-esteem, your value, your worth, your significance, a sense of self-respect and a feeling of satisfaction with who you are.

4. Why is this so important? Think about this...

- 1) “If you are basing who you are on false beliefs, then recognize that those false beliefs shape your thinking so much that you will react to certain life situations based on them.”
 - a) “Where do destructive actions come from? Destructive emotions”.
 - b) “Where do destructive emotions come from? They come from destructive thoughts.”
 - c) “What prompts destructive thoughts? They come from false beliefs.”
 - d) “How can a false belief be brought out? Through the situations you encounter in life.”
 - e) When it comes to your identity, life situations will expose what you believe about who you are.

5. Here is one of our goals:

- 1) To desire an accurate view of ourselves, God, and others based on the truth of God’s Word.

6. Let's turn on the Light:

- 1) My hope is that we can turn on the light through God's Word so that you can avoid believing something the enemy sells as good which always ends in destruction.
- 2) "The Good News is that God can transform our thought patterns from this world – those false beliefs that have been imbedded in your minds – to His truth about us in His Word."
- 3) This will require an investment from you!
 - a) Psalms 119:9-11 -
 - b) Romans 12:2 -
- 4) Remember what we said – we react to life situations based on our set of beliefs.

7. The silent and often common struggle within:

a. Something that may be very common:

- 1) "Many believers are hurt emotionally, relationally, and spiritually, but because we are unaware of the extent of our wounds, we don't take steps toward healing and health. Our problem is not stupidity but a lack of objectivity."

b. Some cannot comprehend the depth of their wound:

- 1) "It may actually be that you are not aware of just how wounded you actually are therefore it would be difficult to take any steps toward healing."
- 2) Why is that we struggle to see this reality in our lives?
 - a) "Some would say that this is life, as good as it gets. It is simply normal."
 - b) "Maybe we buy the lie that if we are good Christians that good Christians don't have problems or struggle with feelings like I do."
- 3) What does all of this mean? Simply this.
 - a) "It is difficult – if not actually impossible – to turn on the light of objectivity by ourselves. We need help to see and understand the truth."

c. God knows and He understands:

- 1) As we walk through this life and different seasons, sometimes good and sometimes difficult, it is comforting to know that God knows but ALSO that we can express those things to the Lord.
- 2) David did throughout his life.
 - a) "Ever felt forgotten? David did and acknowledged it to God." **Psalm 42:9.**
 - b) "Every been angry? David expressed his anger at the wicked." **Psalm 58:6-9.**
 - c) "Every felt despair? David did with what the enemy was doing to him." **Psalm 55:3-5.**
 - d) "Ever felt confused? David did." **Psalm 13:1-2**
- 3) "God knows the good and the bad but sadly, for some, there is such a sense of hopelessness because of where they have been or what has happened to them that they struggle to believe and accept the love that God has for them."

- 4) What would be the response if we find that we perceive our lives as having no value, purpose or significance? We become miserable.

d. God knows and He has written about it:

- 1) Another way we could discover whether something is critical to our lives is to see if God says much about it, gives much emphasis in His Word regarding a particular need.
- 2) Some things you read you should really think through:
 - a) Jesus' life and death –
 - b) God is watching over us.

e. Early in life it is interesting how we so naturally set out to try and begin to satisfy something within us that is really hard to define.

- 1) That hunger to search for people who will love us.
- 2) A desire for acceptance.
- 3) We may be compelled to strive for success -
- 4) The challenge will be simple yet difficult:
 - a) Look to God's Word as our authority, what it says is true regardless of whether we feel or not.

f. The question we may begin to ask ourselves:

- 1) Does God or has God always had the solution for man's emotional struggle.
 - a) If God does not have the answers for the emotional needs, then how can he deliver on His promise to bring joy and peace into our lives if we follow Him?
- 2) Why do we struggle as we do with worth, value, and identity?

8. How did we get here?

a. Everything Changed:

- 1) Is it possible that the fall is what caused the problems that we deal with today about who we are?
 - a) If it wasn't such an important problem within man then why is there such an emphasis in the world today about a person's value and worth, their identity and how the world ties it to so many things.
- 2) Before the tree incident in the garden Adam and Eve lived in perfect, intimate fellowship with God.
- 3) We know they were made in the image of God, complete and perfect in the image of God and designed to reign over God's creation.
- 4) As they obeyed God, as they fellowship with God and as they ruled over what God had created, their simple purpose was to reflect the glory of God.
- 5) If this is correct here then we see what was lost in one sense and then how the enemy of God would seek to hinder, distract, and discourage believers from walking in, understanding and living out this life.

6) One conclusion I have come to is that this problem comes up hard and fast when children reach their middle school years.

b. The enemy sought to destroy what God had done:

1) The enemy of God, satan, fell because of pride and thus he sought to ruin, to destroy what God was doing with Adam and Eve.

2) In his deception of Eve, he lied, he planted a seed that she was incomplete. That God had left something out that she needed.

3) If satan was able to deceive Eve that day, is it not possible that he could deceive you or me?

c. The Truth here seems to be:

1) Truth – Adam and Eve sought to find their security and purpose in something other than God.

2) Even in the midst of that rebellion, God put forth a promise that would end on a cross and restore what was lost – that man can know God, walk with God and have intimate fellowship with God.

3) All of this is possible because Jesus paid the full debt for our sin so that we could have a relationship with God and now able to accomplish what was originally planned.

4) “A question that arises from this that’s related specifically to what we are trying to study and understand is whether we will accept Christ’s death as the payment for our sins and discover the powerful implications of our salvation, or will we continue to follow satan’s lies and deception?”

5) The truth that we are pursuing can only be understood and lived out by one who has been made a new creation in Christ.

d. Let’s review what happened on that day and what changed about you:

1) What happened to you when you repented of your sin and confessed faith in Christ?

a) All your sins are forgiven. Past, present, and future. **Col. 2:13 –14**

b) You become a child of God. **John 1:12; Rom. 8:15**

c) You receive eternal life. **John 5:24**

d) Delivered from satan’s domain and transferred into the kingdom of Christ. **Col. 1:13**

e) Christ comes to dwell within you. **Col. 1:27; Rev. 3:20**

f) You become a new creation. **2 Cor. 5:17**

g) You are declared righteous by God. **2 Cor. 5:21**

h) You enter into a love relationship with God. **1 John 4:9 –11**

i) You are accepted by God. **Col. 1:19 – 22**

2) Does satan’s deceptions end when you are placed in Christ?

3) “When we fall for the lie/deception, please see it for what it is, we are trading God’s truth for a lie.”

e. A familiar word where this is hidden:

- 1) The enemy's lie has taken on many different names and forms.
 - a) The pervading philosophy of the day is called humanism.
 - b) The foundational thought that guides this is that man has meaning totally apart from God, his creator.
- 2) This change of man's heart and mind toward a humanistic perspective is described by Paul in **Romans 1:20-25**.
- 3) "The danger that so many have fallen into is that man has failed to turn to God for the truth about himself."
 - a) Instead, he has looked to others to meet his inescapable need for self-worth. "I am what others say I am," he has reasoned. "I will find my value in their opinions of me."
- 4) Our true value is based not on our behavior or the approval of others but on what God's Word says is true of us.
 - a) My identity is not based on my behavior but on my new birth.

f. The Good News:

- 1) The Good News here is found in the fact that when you believed, the New Creation you are now in Christ, you bear His image.
- 2) Your true purpose, value, identity can be lived out in Christ.
- 3) The equation below reflects Satan's lie: "Self-Worth = Performance + Others' Opinions"
- 4) "When we base our security on success and other's opinions, we become dependent on our abilities to perform and please others."

9. This is a constant spiritual battle:

a. We will need our shield of faith:

- 1) "As believers, our worth and value in this life depend not on our skills to avoid life's problems but on our ability to apply God's specific solutions to those problems."
- 2) "I am speaking about understanding, accepting and applying a biblical understanding of who you are in Christ that is based in what God has said in His Word."
- 3) "Understanding who you are in Christ, your identity, is crucial to your emotional, spiritual and social stability."
- 4) This hunger for self-worth is God given and thus it can only be satisfied by God.

10. Four common lies that control people's perception of themselves:

a. The Performance Trap:

- 1) **The Lie** – "I must meet certain standards to feel good about myself."
 - a) The result mentally of believing this lie -
 - b) How does God's Word confront this lie?

b. The Approval Addict –

- 1) **The Lie** – “I must be approved by certain people to feel good about myself.”
 - a) The result mentally of believing this is
 - b) How does God’s Word confront this lie?

c. The Blame Game –

- 1) **The lie** – “Those who fail are unworthy of love and deserve to be punished.”
 - a) The result of believing this is -
 - b) How does God’s Word confront this lie?

d. Shame –

- 1) **The Lie** – Simply, “I am what I am. I cannot change. I am hopeless.”
 - a) The result of believing this -
 - b) How does God’s Word confront this lie?

11. Did I accomplish the goal?