The Case of Mistaken Identity

Main Thought

Behavior follows identity. Many people try to change their actions without first addressing what they believe about themselves. God's answer is not to repair the old identity, but to give us a new identity in Christ.

Key Scriptures

Psalm 139:14
You are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Proverbs 23:7
As a person thinks in their heart, so are they.

Romans 12:1-2
Transformation comes through the renewing of the mind.

2 Corinthians 5:17-18
If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation.

Ephesians 4:22-24
Put off the old man and put on the new man.

Colossians 3:9-10
Put off the old self and put on the new self.

Genesis 17:1-5
God changed Abram's identity before his circumstances fully reflected the promise.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5
We must cast down thoughts that fight against the knowledge of God.

Lesson Outline

1. You Are God's Masterpiece

Your identity does not begin with your mistakes, your history, your struggles, or your negative self-talk. It begins with what God says about you.

Key Point:
You cannot consistently live above what you believe about yourself.

Reflection Question:
Do I see myself the way God sees me, or do I still define myself by old seasons, old failures, or old labels?

2. Your Mind Responds to Your Identity

The PDF teaches that the brain does not simply act according to what you want. It responds according to who you believe you are.

Your thoughts become a filter. That filter affects how you see life, how you make decisions, and how you respond to challenges.

Key Point:
A renewed mind creates new patterns.

Reflection Question:
What old thought pattern has been influencing my behavior?

3. Behavior Follows Identity

Many people attempt to change behavior without changing what they believe about themselves. That is why change often does not last.

The deeper question is not just, "What am I doing?"
The deeper question is, "Who do I believe I am while I am doing this?"

Key Point:
Lasting change starts with identity, not behavior management.

Discussion Question:
What is one area where you have been trying to change the fruit without dealing with the root?

4. God Offers Us a Reset

God does not simply patch up the old identity. In Christ, He gives us a completely new identity.

This new identity is not based on what you have been through. It is not based on what you are currently facing. It is based on Christ.

Key Point:
God's reset gives you a new identity and a new script to live by.

Reflection Question:
What old "script" have I been living from that needs to be replaced with God's Word?

5. You Must Choose to Put On the New Identity

According to Ephesians 4 and Colossians 3, believers have a responsibility to put off the old and put on the new.

This means we must actively reject old labels, old lies, and old ways of thinking. Then we must choose to agree with what God has said.

Key Point:
The new identity must be accepted, practiced, and lived out.

Discussion Question:
What does "putting on the new man" look like in everyday life?

6. God Changed Abram's Identity First

In Genesis 17, God changed Abram's name to Abraham, meaning father of many nations. This happened before Abraham's circumstances fully looked like the promise.

God did not wait until everything around Abram changed. He changed Abram's identity first.

Key Point:
Sometimes God speaks identity before your circumstances catch up.

Reflection Question:
What has God said about me that my current circumstances do not yet seem to support?

How to Claim Your True Identity

1. Catch the old identity

Ask yourself:
“How am I seeing myself right now?”
“How am I talking about myself right now?”

2. Discover what God says

Find scripture that speaks to the truth of who you are in Christ.

3. Replace the old thought

Speak God’s Word over yourself consistently. Repetition matters.

4. Walk and talk like the new person

Begin making choices that agree with your God-given identity.

Personal Application

Complete this statement:

One mistaken identity I need to reject is:

One truth God says about me is:

One scripture I will speak over myself this week is:

One action I will take to live from my true identity is:

Closing Prayer Focus

Lord, help me to stop answering to the wrong identity. Renew my mind, reset my patterns, and teach me to see myself according to Your Word. I reject every false label, every old script, and every lie that has shaped how I see myself. I receive the identity You have given me in Christ. Help me to walk, talk, think, and live like the new creation You have made me to be. In Jesus' name, amen.