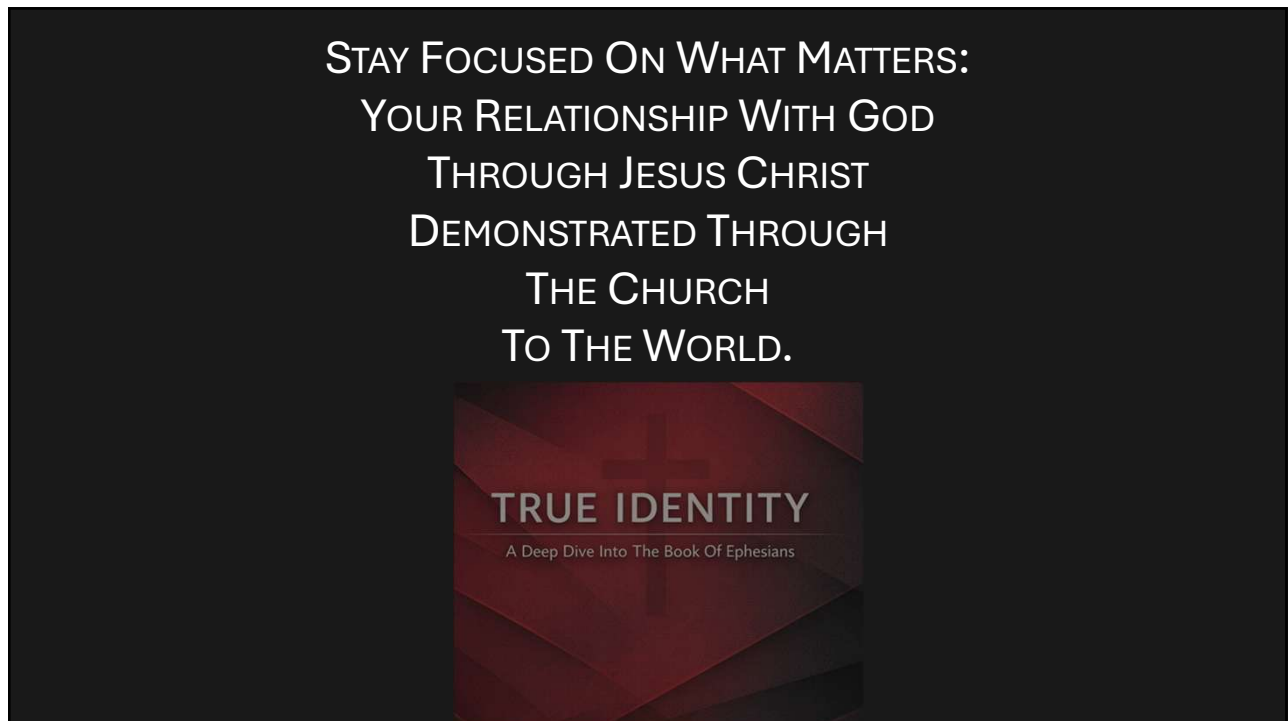


39



40

Ephesians 5:1–6

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

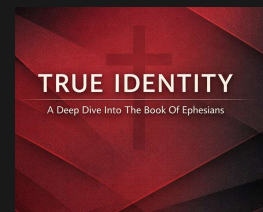
But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

41

REFLECT vs. 1-2

Connection (“Therefore”)

- Commanded to live differently
- Commanded to love others
- Commanded to demonstrate and extend forgiveness



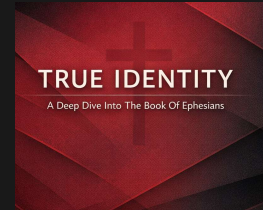
42

REFLECT vs. 1-2

Connection (“Therefore”)

Imitators Of God

- Must know the one imitating
 - God reveals Himself through nature – general revelation (Romans 1:19-20)
 - Manifested plan of redemption – Jesus
 - Earthly ministry of Jesus
 - Love God – whole hearted devotion
 - Love other – compassionate hearts



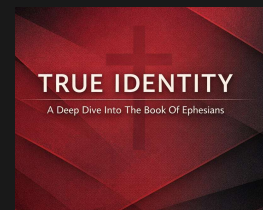
43

REFLECT vs. 1-2

Connection (“Therefore”)

Imitators Of God

- Must know the one imitating
- God continues to reveal Himself through the Holy Spirit
 - God’s will
 - Conviction of sin
 - Surrendering to the Holy Spirit



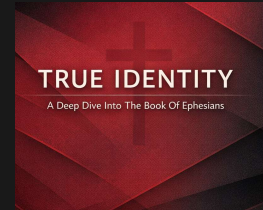
44

REFLECT vs. 1-2

Connection (“Therefore”)

Imitators Of God

- Must know the one imitating
- God continues to reveal Himself through the Holy Spirit
- Being an imitator of God is not impossible



45

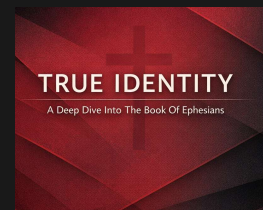
REFLECT vs. 1-2

Connection (“Therefore”)

Imitators Of God

Relationship To God

- No longer alienated – Ephesians 2:1-3
- Now beloved children
- Only possible through God’s grace and love
- Complete identity change



46

Ephesians 1:11–14

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

47

REFLECT vs. 1-2

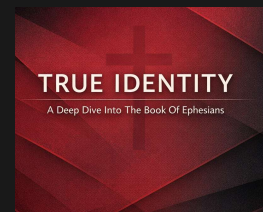
Connection (“Therefore”)

Imitators Of God

Relationship To God

Walk In Godly Love

- Walking requires effort and action
- Walking requires selecting a path
- Godly love



48

John 14:15

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

John 14:21

Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

49

1 John 5:3

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

2 John 6

And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

50

REFLECT vs. 1-2

Connection (“Therefore”)

Imitators Of God

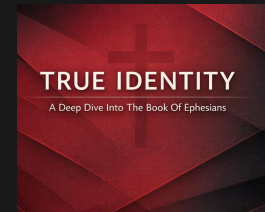
Relationship To God

Walk In Godly Love

As Demonstrated By Christ

The Sacrifice

- Compassion towards all by meeting physical and spiritual needs
- Gave Himself to be the sacrifice of sin
- Continued connection with the Father



51

REFLECT vs. 1-2

Connection (“Therefore”)

Imitators Of God

Relationship To God

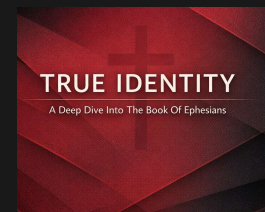
Walk In Godly Love

As Demonstrated By Christ

The Sacrifice

God’s Plan And His Will

- God’s plan was redemption before He created
- The heart of the sacrifice – Psalm 51:16-17



52

Psalm 51:16–17

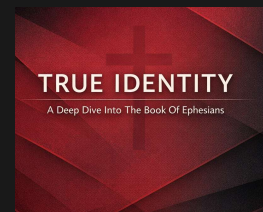
For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

53

REFRAIN vs. 3-5

God Does Not Have A Sliding Scale For Sin

- Any sin breaks intimacy with God
- Any sin can be forgiven in an instant through repentance
- Sin is not only the wrong action, but also the thoughts leading up to the sinful action

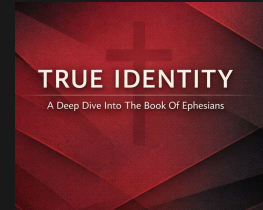


54

REFRAIN vs. 3-5

God Does Not Have A Sliding Scale For Sin Sexual Immorality

- God's perfect design – one husband and one wife
- Physical intimacy between two
- Immorality –
 - Any thought or action concerning sexual expression outside of a marriage relationship
 - Feeding thoughts through our senses that is contrary to God's plan



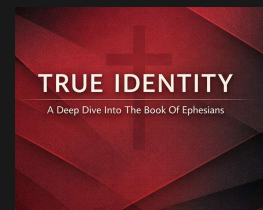
55

REFRAIN vs. 3-5

God Does Not Have A Sliding Scale For Sin Sexual Immorality

Covetousness

- Desire someone else possession or position
- Willingness to do harm to obtain



56

REFRAIN vs. 3-5

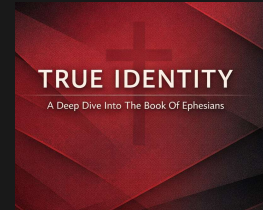
God Does Not Have A Sliding Scale For Sin

Sexual Immorality

Covetousness

Your Sin Impacts Others

- Remember, you are gifted and called to the church
- Your sin impacts the church relationships and character
- Your is known by God



57

REFRAIN vs. 3-5

God Does Not Have A Sliding Scale For Sin

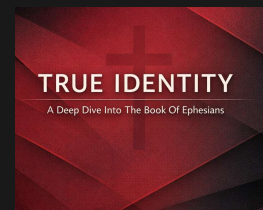
Sexual Immorality

Covetousness

Your Sin Impacts Others

Guard Your Tongue

- Remember, you cannot control your words. This must submit to the self control through the Holy Spirit
- Filthiness
- Foolish talk
- Crude jokes



58

James 3:3–12

If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

59

REFRAIN vs. 3-5

God Does Not Have A Sliding Scale For Sin

Sexual Immorality

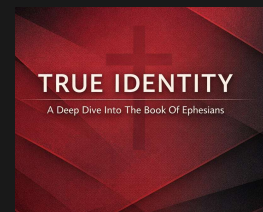
Covetousness

Your Sin Impacts Others

Guard Your Tongue

No Conviction = No Salvation

- Believers are brought under conviction by the Holy Spirit
- Conviction directs believers to new path



60

1 John 1:7-10

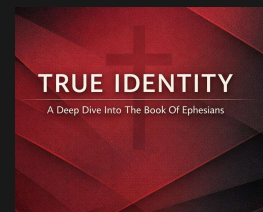
But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

61

REMAIN vs. 6

Deception Will Happen

- Satan's is the author of deception (Genesis 3:1-7)
- Infiltration in the church (Matthew 7:15; Galatians 1:6; 2 Peter 2:1-3)
- Outside persecutions (Matthew 10:16-23; Act 9:1-3)



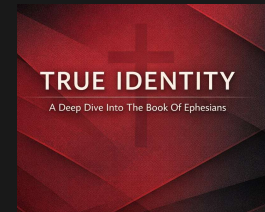
62

REMAIN vs. 6

Deception Will Happen

Empty Words

- Unfounded promises from Scripture
- Twisted, out of context
- Self-inflated understanding and revelation
- Empty of the power and promises of God



63

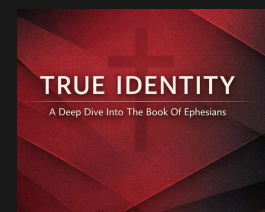
REMAIN vs. 6

Deception Will Happen

Empty Words

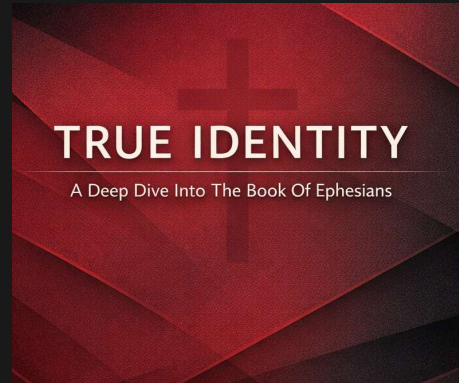
God Will Not Be Silent

- God's wrath is against any who attempt to destroy the church (Matthew 16:13-20)



64

Are You A God Imitator?



65