

Identity Theft 24-1-10

A Criminal Activity

Through the Internet

- Steals their money
- Steals their ideas
- Steals their name

Imagine you were the heir of a great inheritance which would give you great wealth and power, and which would therefore enable you to do an amazing amount of good in the world.

Imagine if a person in that company who was supposed to train you and prepare you for your inheritance, actually hid your identity from you and by illegal means stole your inheritance and used it for doing an amazing amount of evil in the world.

Imagine what a terrible tragedy it would be if you never discovered your identity and never received your inheritance, and rather, along with many others suffered at the hands of the thief.

In the Garden of Eden – there was a thief

- **Genesis 3:5** “For God knows in the day you eat it of it your eyes will be opened and **you will be like God** knowing good and evil.”
- **Genesis 1:26** “Then God said, ‘Let us make man **in our image**, according to **our likeness**; let them have dominion...”

Since the Garden

- Continual tactic of the devil
- He knows a people made in God’s image who know who they are, and the authority they have, **will tread all over him** and **plunder his captives** and **undo his evil works**
- **With Jesus in the wilderness**
 - Matthew 4:3 “...if you are the Son of God...”
 - Matthew 4:6 “...if you are the Son of God...”
- **The Church**
 - Keeping the mystery of “Christ in us” and “us in Christ” a secret. (The mystery revealed in Colossians 1:26-27)

The Revelation of our Identity in Christ

- Around 160 references directly or indirectly to “in Christ”
- Paul’s passion

A Study on Ephesians 1-3

Because we are in Christ...

- 1:3 we are blessed with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places
- 1:4 we are chosen by God
- 1:5 we are adopted as sons because it was God’s pleasure to do so
- 1:6 we accepted as Christ is by God
- 1:7 we are redeemed from the enemy’s hold and sin’s hold
- 1:7 our sins are forgiven
- 1:9 God’s will and purposes made known to us
- 1:11 we have an inheritance from God
- 1:13 we have a guarantee of the Spirit that we have that inheritance
- 2:1 we are spiritually alive
- 2:4 God is rich in mercy towards us
- 2:4 God loves us with a love greater than we can understand
- 2:6 we are raised up to sit in heavenly places
- 2:7 God is rich in grace and kindness towards us
- 2:10 we are His workmanship
- 2:13 we have been brought near to God
- 2:16 we are reconciled to God and each other
- 2:18 we have continual access to the Father
- 2:19 we are fellow citizens with the saints
- 2:19 we are members of the household of God
- 2:20 we are built together for the dwelling place of God
- 3:12 we have confident access to God

Anti-Christ Teaching:

- Anything that would stop us or steal from us an understanding of who we are in Christ

Confusing Teaching:

- When one preacher builds us up concerning who we are in Christ, and another one tears us down by telling us who we are not
- That emphasises who we are after the flesh rather than after the spirit
 - 2 Corinthians 5:16-17
- That mixes old covenant law teaching that condemns and kills; with new covenant grace teaching that liberates and gives life.
 - “The law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death” Romans 8:2

Identification

Romans 6 and Colossians 2 and 3 and Ephesians 1 and 2:

- We died with (in) Him
- We have been buried with (in) Him
- We have been raised with (in) Him
- We are seated with (in) Him

Many Christians are living in denial of the truth

- In denial that the old man is dead and buried
- They are carrying around the “wretched body of death”
- It is a “death sentence” – it will “kill” us
- **Must move from Romans 7:24 to Romans 8:1-2**
 - “Where there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus; for the law of the Spirit of life has set me free from the law of sin and death”
 - Romans 7 is not a description of the recommended Christian life
 - It’s a way of living from which we can be free

We must understand what to do in the Day of Battle – Often in Court Room

- **Accuser** (devil - the prosecutor) accuses us day and night determined condemn us to death
- **Our Advocate** (Jesus – defence lawyer) – declares every time, “That sin has been paid for by Me!” and “He can’t be tried for the same crime twice. That’s double jeopardy!”
- We must keep declaring the truth time and time again until the enemy gets sick of being defeated

There is far more...

What if we really believed that within in us is a river of living water?

What if I believed that I am an ambassador of Christ – His representative on earth from the kingdom of heaven?

What if we believed that we have on the Armour of God?

- Truth
- Breastplate of righteousness
- Helmut of salvation
- Shoes make sharing the good news easy
- Shield of faith
- Sword of the Spirit

What if we believed that Jesus has been given a name that is above every name and that His name every knee must bow...and we have been given all authority in His name...to tread on all the powers of the enemy...to bind his activities on earth...to loose people from his hold...to cast out demons...to heal the sick...and to enjoy divine protection?

What if we believed that all the promises of God are “Yes” and “So be it” if we are in Christ and when they are received all the glory goes to God?

What if we decided to change these questions into confessions of faith in the truth?

What if every day and whenever in a court battle throughout the day declared...

I died, was buried, rose and am now seated in heaven with Christ!

I am no longer in bondage to sin, Satan or sickness!

I am redeemed from the curse of the law and from the hand of the enemy!

I am the temple of the Holy Spirit and a river of living water is flowing from me!

I am forgiven, my sin is forgotten and there is no condemnation for me!

I dwell in the secret place of the Most High and therefore right under the shadow of the Almighty!

I can say of the Lord that He is my refuge and my fortress and in Him I trust!

I may be in a valley but I fear no evil for God is with me!

I may be surrounded by enemies but I have a table prepared for me in the midst of those enemies.

Some bad things may have happened but My God will work them together for good!

I may be facing a battle but my God always causes me to triumph through our Lord Jesus Christ.

I may have been left by my friends but my God will never leave me or forsake me.

I belong to God; I am called and chosen by Him; I am loved by Him, valued by Him; I am covered by Him; accepted by Him; have access to Him; I am the apple of His eye; I am His heir; and I am a king and priest and member of the household of God.

Conclusion

- Don't allow the enemy to steal your identity!
- Be clear of your identity in Christ and of Christ in you!
- Ask the question, "What difference would it make in my life if I believed each aspect of my identity.
- Declare who you are to the yourself, to the enemy and be over the top grateful to God, who made it possible

NOTE WELL: Notes as well as audio on website.