

My Identity in Christ

Module 3 Week 2

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Living from Identity: Renewing the Mind & Daily Application

- 1) We're going to review and transition from who we are in Christ to how we appropriate and apply that to our every day life. Our issues spring from the fact that we don't know who we are. Take that a step further to where people have told us that we're not worth anything, never going to amount to anything, or abandoned and rejected us, and our issue becomes clear.
 - a) We begin to believe the lies that the enemy tells us through people and we take on that persona! I am here to tell you today that you have great value! So much so that God sent His Son, to embody human kind by putting on flesh and to shed His Holy blood to redeem you, so that the Spirit of God could get back in you.
 - b) **The New Birth= New Divine Nature.**
 - i) When we were born again into the family of God and were adopted as Sons and Daughters into the Kingdom of God our old fleshly nature (old beliefs, desires, and patterns of thinking) were replaced with the Nature of God and we were given new Godly desires, and a desire to be obedient to God and His Word.
 - ii) We were Given a new heart that desires God, The mind of Christ to understand the things of the Spirit, And our Spirit is regenerated and united forever with the Holy Spirit giving us guidance and strength to overcome sin and ourselves.
 - c) **Your Identity is Settled!**
 - i) Your identity is settled once and for all and flows from the Deep love God has for you. Tetelestai (IT IS FINISHED). You do not have to strive or strain, to become anything. You already are!!!
 - (1) You Are Loved. You are loved when You do everything right, you are loved when you do everything wrong. Your loved in Rebellion, Your loved when you walk in obedience with faithfulness! Your loved if You preach the Walls down, Your loved if you just cussed your wife up and down!

(2) God is LOVE its not what He does its who He is. It is His very nature. He loves you because every action thought word and deed that God has ever done Has been in love, and YOU are the object of that great love. Praise God!!!!
Your identity is received, not achieved.

d) **Transformation flows from Truth**

i) Renewal happens as we See, observe, and Behold the Truth in God's Word. We choose to believe it and then we become what we Behold.

Behold<Believe<Become. We MUST understand that Identity precedes Behavior. We don't act Holy to become Holy; We are Holy and as we believe that and live from that Holiness develops in our actions.

e) **The Number 1 Most important thing for us to understand is we ARE the Image Bearers of God.**

i) All of the verses in "Who I Am in Christ" are well and good, they are important, but we must be careful that we aren't putting our faith in them like they are some kind of spellbook or incantation. They are not declarations that we muster up enough Faith and declare enough they wil become true. NO! they are already True and we declare them to speak to our soul to tell it who it is. It's less about the Words on the paper, as it is about the spirit behind them, which is :

(1) You are all LOVED Children and Image bearers of God. Wholly loved, Complete in the Father, you have intrinsic Value to God. You are the physical representation in this natural world designed and created to be what reveals Christ to the World.

(2) Satan wants you to doubt this Truth. So look at your life right now, any area that currently doesn't look like Jesus, submit it to God, surrender it to Jesus, and yield to His Truth about you. You are the Image of Love, Behold it, Believe it, and you will Become it in Jesus Name!!!!

f) **KEY STATEMENT: "The Christian Life is not about trying harder; It's about Thinking rightly."**

2) **Renewing the Mind to our new Identity- Why renewing the Mind is necessary**

a) You can't talk about appropriation or applying our new identity without talking about renewing the Mind. I'm going to try to only touch on it because we have a whole module dedicated to it later.

b) Renewing the mind is necessary because we have lived in this world system specifically designed to contradict God and His ways. Your environments, schools, friends, families, everything around you is influenced by darkness, and we were all raised that way to some degree.

- c) Couple that with the fact that all of us have been led by our own desires, and emotions for the majority of our lives and have all experienced Trauma to some degree and it becomes plain to see that our Minds must be renewed to who God designed us to be.
- d) **Romans 12:1-2-** *I beseech^[a] you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your^[b] reasonable service. ²**And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*
- e) **Ephesians 4:22-24-** *that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*
- f) **Colossians 3: 9-10-** ⁹*Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,*
- g) **Your Spirit is New, but Your Mind remembers the old life.**
- i) Our Spirit was born again immediately and is perfect whole and complete lacking nothing; but our mind must be renewed day by day because all of the things of the spirit do not come naturally and are even counterintuitive to the natural man and the way we've always done things. We have trauma, personality defects, strongholds (wrong thinking, ungodly emotions, patterns, habits, hurts, and hang-ups) that must be renewed to God's Truth in order for us to unlock all that God has for us. Character is ALWAYS greater than Calling!!!!!!
- h) **Many Believers live beneath their inheritance because they think like orphans.**
- i) Most of us live below everything God actually has before us because it feels almost impossible to believe that God thinks such incredible things about us, because we're keenly aware of our short-comings! We see all of the bad we've done and think we're unworthy; Let me alleviate that sentiment right now: You Are unworthy, but your identity isn't contingent on your behavior its based on His Faithfulness, Kindness, Love for You and His Goodness!!!! Just receive and Believe!!!!
- i) **IMPORTANT DISTINCTIONS:**
- i) **Experiences do not dictate Identity.** (we all have been through bad things, but they don't define you, Jesus does: You are a New creation)
- ii) **Temptation is not sin**, if it was Jesus Would have sinned. He was Tempted in all ways in which we were yet with out sin. Don't beat yourself up for bad thopughts or lusts, Just deny them and move on.

- iii) **Thoughts are not always Truth.** Every thought is not yours and does not come from you, Just because you think something doesn't mean its true! Example: I love the Lord with all my Heart. Sometimes a random cuss word runs through my mind out of nowhere. I'm not going to stop and beat myself up because of that and start this long confession to God, that's not in my heart to think like that so if I don't want to think that chances are it didn't come from me. So I let it go don't give it attention and I move on.
- iv) **FEELINGS ARE NOT REALITY.** This is hard but must be stated: Just because we feel something doesn't make the source of the feeling is based in Truth. Not every feeling is true, not every perceived offense is real, not every thing we feel matters. The feeling is real but we must examine its source and if its not lined up with the standard of God's Word: **GET RID OF IT!!!**

3) **How Renewing The Mind Actually Works**

- a) I am going to go over some applicable steps to renewing the mind, this is not a formula, make it your own. Warning: This is not a replacement for knowing God, I encourage you to involve God in every aspect of this process! This Does Not get you More identity, or More Saved and is not something you can do instead of Spending time with Father in the secret place!!!! Please do not look at this like something you HAVE to do, but rather as something you get to do WITH the Holy Spirit to be conformed into the Image of Christ
- b) **Step 1: Expose Old Identity Beliefs**
 - i) We often have thought processes like: I'm Just struggling, I'm never going to overcome this, I'm just like this, this is just how I am, I'll always battle this, God must have made me this way, or even God is disappointed with me. That is not true, it is contrary and even contradictory to the Word of God! In fact to continue to agree with that line of thinking tells God: I don't believe you, I'm right your wrong, and I know better. That is terrifying!!
 - ii) So Here is where the How to Begins. This is the most important scripture to Renewing the mind in my opinion shares its wisdom with us:
 - (1) **2 Corinthians 10: 3-5** - For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴For the weapons of our warfare *are* not ^[a]carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,
- c) This brings us to **Step 2: Replace Lies with Identity Truth-**

MEDITATION

i) **John 8:31-32**- ³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

ii) **Ephesians 1!!!!!!**

(1) You’ll notice I didn’t put any actual verses next to Ephesians 1... that is because the entire first chapter is about identity! Were going to turn there together right now and go over some. Everywhere you see In Him: THAT’S YOU!!! Right? Your in Him aren’t you? Then lets see what that makes You.

(2) Truth is NOT information- it’s revelation. It’s not enough to just know these things. You need the power of God to reveal that these things are true about you and you need to reach out grasp them and make them yours!!!

(3) **Key Point Here: MEDITATION IS FAR MORE IMOPORTANT THAN MEMORIZATION!!!!**

(a) I don’t mean eastern meditation which is an emptying of the mind. I mean biblical Meditation which is to mull over and over in the mind even muttering to yourself a Truth about your identity until it becomes a part of you!

(b) **Joshua 1:8**- ⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you^[a] shall **meditate** in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. **For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.**

(c) For Then, everyone say For Then!!! You will make your way prosperous, and have food success. As we meditate on what God says about us and agree with Him we become what were seeing in scripture and we become prosperous and have good success.

(d) **3 John 2**- ² Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

d) **Step 3: Agree with God Through Confession**

i) **Your Life will follow the Direction of Your confession!!!** Life and death lies in the power of the tongue, what you speak is what you get. Who ever said sticks and stones lied!!! We proliferate whatever we speak so we are ALWAYS advancing one kingdom or another in poeple, If we agree with and speak God’s Word- life and Godliness... If we speak fear, anxiety, anger, lusts, contentions, arguments, aoffense(the languafe of the enemy)- then Death!

ii) **Romans 10:10**- ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

- iii) **Hebrews 4:14-** ¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.
- iv) **James 3:2-5-** ² For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a ^[a]perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. ³^[a] Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. ⁴ Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. ⁵ Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.
- v) **Proverbs 18:21-** Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.
- vi) **Proverbs 23:7a-** For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.
- (1) Sidenote: This is also how we conduct spiritual warfare. We replace the lies of the enemies (the fiery darts) with the Truth of God's written word as seen by our Master and King Jesus in Matthew chapter 4.
- (2) **Matthew 4:1-7-** Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. ³ Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."⁴ But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" ⁵ Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" ⁷ Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not ^[a]tempt the Lord your God.'"
- (3) I stopped there for a reason because there is one more encounter before the Lord passes the Test and returns in the power of the Holy spirit; but right here I want everyone to see, the enemy tried to use scripture to back up the lie he was telling Jesus to tempt Him. Translation: CONTEXT IS KEY, scripture is of no private interpretation. People and even our selves or the enemy can try to bend scripture to make us believe something is ok or to back up a wrong viewpoint we have so let me say this clearly: There is only one view that Matters and that's God's! Decide to do things His way upfront and there will be no variations or wandering from the Truth!!!!

vii) Let me say this before we move on: **Confession is alignment, not manifestation!** We are not declaring things into existence, only God can do that- we are agreeing with Jesus! We have the power to cultivate what has already been spoken, not create new things! Your choice what you cultivate, whether it be God's Kingdom through believing and speaking His Word, or the Enemy by believing his report and speaking his Kingdom language. (lies, fear, lust, hate....etc.)

viii) Example: "I am the Righteousness of God in Christ Jesus- Even when I don't feel like it or had a moral failure." Or "I'm a New Creation in Christ, a child of God- even when I feel alone or worthless."

4) **Applying Identity in Daily Life**

a) This is practical application. As I have said We have to apply God's Word especially identity into our lives daily in order to life from our new identity. This is not trying to become- This is living from what's already true.

b) **Application In Temptation:**

i) **Romans 6:11**- ¹¹ Likewise you also, ^[a]reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ii) This is not who I am. I have indeed died to sin and am now alive to righteousness. I am presenting my members for Righteousness because I'm the Temple of The Holy Spirit, Who lives in me. This isn't what I'm made for.

iii) Example: I'm going to be candid with y'all. When I first got born again, I struggled with lust. I spent my entire life looking at women up and down and imagining stuff I shouldn't have. When I met Jesus, it was one of the first things I felt conviction for. I had to declare a war with that habit.

(1) So I identified the false belief: that I need the gratification from women to feel accepted and have significance.

(2) I found Scriptures to meditate on that showed me the truth, and I made them my own:

(3) I make a covenant with my eyes, Just as job did to not even look at a young woman with Lust. Jesus said that if you even look at a woman with lustful intent you have already committed adultery in your heart. Those who commit adultery will not inherit the kingdom of Heaven. For I am a Temple of the Holy Spirit, will I then take the members of Christ and join them with the members of a harlot? Certainly not! For in the beginning God created Males and Females in the Image and Likeness of God, I will not objectify, covet, or lust after the very image of God, for they are His daughters!

(4) And every time that temptation came I spoke that word out loud, prayed and meditated on these scriptures until they became a part of me, and now im free from lust.

c) **Application in Failure:**

- i) **1 John 1:7-9-** *⁷But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
- ii) The Temptation when we sin, is to run from God, and wallow in our sin; or give up completely. As you can see from that scripture, there is no need! If we just but turn and confess He is faithful to cleanse us from some sin..... NO ALL sin!!! That's something to be excited about He desires to restore us and cleanse us!!!!
- iii) We can run to God not away from Him. That's Relationship!!! Think about your children, if they trip and fall down are you going to cast them away from you? No you come running brush them off clean them up and send em back out to play!!! How much more so a perfect Holy God!

d) **Application in Relationships:**

- i) **John 1:12-** *¹²But as many as received Him, to them He gave the ^[a]right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:*
- ii) **Matthew 22: 37-40-** *³⁷Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”*
(1) Secure Identity produces love, not defensiveness. When were not looking at the people we interact with day to day as a source of significance, security or validation, or purpose then were free to love them even if they do something painful. They cant affect our identity, they don't owe us anything and we don't owe them anything accept to love them as Christ does. That frees us from that constant inner dialogue that says, “I cant believe they said, or I cant believe they did...” Well they should have or I never would have done...” or That emotional expectation to meet some inner lack and need because everything we could ever need has been given to us in Christ Jesus!

e) **Application in Prayer:**

- i) **Romans 8:15-** *¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba,^[a] Father.”*
- ii) **2 Corinthians 1:20-** *²⁰For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.*

- iii) As we bring this to a close, I want to demonstrate an Identity centered prayer. You want to get alone with the Father, by yourself when no one is around and pray; Listen this is not a one size fits all. Don't take what I'm saying a recite it word for word like some magic incantation. Its so much less about what you say and so much more about your heart's posture and receiving the Truth in a communion an interchange between you and Holy Spirit.
- iv) David spoke to his own soul and said "bless the Lord at all times", He had to encourage Himself in the Lord. So get alone with the Lord and deal with your own heart ask Him to search you, and reveal the wrong ways you think about yourself and Him, and then confess them and declare truth. This isn't you trying to manifest something into your life, this is agreement with the Truth of who you already are and telling your soul to believe it with God breathing His approval on it!
- v) Alright? Im going to pray.