

Identity

Sense of Self: Self Image – how you see yourself (what gives you value, makes you special)
(Pr 23:7) For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.

Principle: what we think of ourselves determines our character/values

Sources of Identity: Appearance, Ability, Status, Culture, Intellect, Wounds, Weaknesses
Internalizing External Voices/Events forms *Personal* Identity

Self Esteem: Aren't we supposed to die to ourselves? (Mt 16:24-25, Gal2:20)
Only so that we can become Alive in Christ!

Higher Self Image/Esteem – as Christ sees you (only True perspective)

Value He Established (vs false humility), He makes you special

your Identity must be established in Him!

(Pr 4:20-23) My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.

Internalize His Voice (Word) – life, health

Guard your Identity – your Character and Values spring from it

once your Identity is established in Him (Internalized)

it can't be corrupted by external voices/events

Choose to believe His Word about you – *Incompatible* with False Identities (Lies)

You must Disempower Lies with Declarations of Truth from His Word.

(Ro 8:38-39) For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Ro 8:16-17) The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

(Ep 1:6) to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

(Col 2:10) and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

(Ep 2:10) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

(Jn 8:36) Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

(2Co 5:21) For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

(Rev 1:5-6) To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

(1Pe 2:9) But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

(2Co 5:17) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

(1Jn 3:21) Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.

We get our Heart/Identity right, Confidence will follow.

(Pr 28:1) The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.

Sin Issues are Identity Issues – how we see ourselves

(Ro 6:11) Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

not ignoring sin, but challenging it with a Higher Identity

(Ga 5:16) I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

don't focus on sin – call out true Identity in Christ (ex: Shawn Bolz)

(Ps 119:11) Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

Healing/Deliverance comes through Genuine Identity

(Ro 2:4) Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

Worship: Identity Declarations

Identity: King Saul and King David (1 Samuel)

Review: Guard what you Internalize. (Heart – Prov 4:23)

It Determines your Identity. (Character from how you see yourself)

We must Choose to Internalize His Word.

Confront our Issues with the Higher Identity found In Him.

Beginnings

Saul

tall, handsome son of powerful father, least family of smallest tribe (Benjamin)

big fish in little pond (has servants)

anointed King by Samuel

“I’ll tell you what’s in your heart” – prophetically reveal Identity

“you’ll be turned into another man” – genuine Identity in Him

He still must Choose to walk in that Identity

declared King before gathered Israel – he is Hiding (not confident)

David

youngest son tending sheep while brothers go to the sacrifice

doesn’t look Kingly

(1Sa 16:7) But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

Contrast: Outward vs Inward Identity (living life before men or God?)

anointed King by Samuel privately

(1Sa 13:14) “But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.”

already Chosen Identity in Him – didn’t need to be turned into another man

Worshipper (harp, Psalms)

Character over Comfort – refined like Joseph, not given like Saul

(Ps 119:67) Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word.

(Ps 119:71) It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.

(Ps 119:75) I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are right, and that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.

Humility and Confidence – products of Identity in Him (**Security**)

Identity Revealed (Character) – two failures each

Saul

wait 7 days for Samuel to come make sacrifice at Gilgal

Spirit of the Lord comes on Saul, gathers Israel, kills threatening Ammonites, Philistines gather, Israel scatters, offers sacrifice without Samuel

1 Samuel 13:11-15

Fear – excuse, confidence in men, lost heritage (Jesus son of David – Acts 13:22-23)

destroy Amalekites – spares King Agag, best of livestock

(1Sa 15:11) “I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments.” And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night.

1 Sam 15:17-31

excuse: rebellion/witchcraft (**Control**), stubbornness/idolatry (**Self over God**)

blame: **Fear of Man** (Prov 29:25)

Honor/Pride (Jn 5:44) – outward worship (appearance), turned back heart

Lost the Kingdom protecting his own Identity

David

when anointed Spirit of the Lord departs Saul and comes on David

distressing spirit on Saul, David sent to play harp – **Favor**

Philistines/Goliath

David playing harp, tending sheep, bringing lunch to angry brothers

Serving before Ruling – even if already anointed

“Is there not a cause?” (1 Sam 17:29) **God’s Honor**

1 Sam 17:32-37

Confidence/Courage through **History** with God (personal/private)

no armor – sling (no posturing, confident in Identity)

1 Sam 17:45-47

Submitted - popular, anointed, stays under authority

Saul

(1Sa 18:14-15) And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the LORD was with him.

Therefore, when Saul saw that he behaved very wisely, he was afraid of him.

Insecurity – Angry, Jealous ~ seeks to kill David

Michal & Philistine foreskin dowry (snare) – **Manipulation (Witchcraft)**

David

flees to wilderness, gathers followers, defends Israel (Saul obsessively pursues)

1 Sam 23:1-5

followed God, not men (inquired of God continually) ex: Amalekite raid

(1Sa 30:6) Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

twice Saul delivered into David's hands (test?) – cave, camp

1 Sam 24:4-7, 1 Sam 26:8-11

Rest - God promotes in His time

Endings

Saul

consults medium because fears Philistines and God isn't answering him

had put them out of land (1 Sam 28:3), but not witchcraft out of his heart

(Mt 23:27-28) Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

killed by Philistines the next day in battle

David

two failures: Bathsheeba (2 Sam 12), numbering Israel (2 Sam 24)

when confronted (Nathan, Gad) no excuse, blame – "I have sinned"

accepts consequences, praises God, never loses position

humble – only with healthy Identity in Him (otherwise must justify/defend self)

Summary

The cure for fear, control/witchcraft, self idolatry, fear of man, pride, insecurity, anger, jealousy, manipulation, outward religiousness is a healthy Identity in Him.

A healthy Identity in Him leads to humility, confidence, security, favor, servant heart, courage, submitted heart, rest.

Just like King Saul and King David, you have a Choice where you will get your Identity.