

Notes:

GETTING PAST MY PAST

Identity Theft Series: Sermon 3 part 1
II Corinthians 5:14-20 Pastor David Redmond February 20, 2011

For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; ¹⁵and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. ¹⁶Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. ¹⁷Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. ¹⁸Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. II Corinthians 5:14-20 (NAS)

REVIEW:

- **A Falsehood Believed Will Affect You As If It Were True.**
 - **Before God Asks Us To Accomplish Anything Significant, He First Defines Our Identity.**
 - **How I View Myself (My Identity) Governs My Thoughts, And Determines My Behavior.**

The Truth:	The Falsehood:
God Chose Me	I Don't Matter
I Have A Relationship With God	I Have To Earn God's Approval
I Am Set Apart For God's Purpose	My Past Disqualifies Me
I Am Secure In Christ	I Can't Be Sure Of My Eternal Destiny

...for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for He called you out of the darkness into His wonderful light. ¹⁰ "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy." I Peter 2:9-10 (NLT)

Why Does The Past Have Such Power In Our Lives?

There Is A _____ Battle Over My _____.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Ephesians 6:10-13 (NAS)

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. ¹⁰And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

I Peter 5:8-10 (NIV)

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. Revelation 12:10 (NIV)

Whenever Satan reminds you of your _____,
remind him of his _____.

“There is no neutral ground in the universe; every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counter-claimed by Satan” C.S. Lewis

Areas Of Our Past That Are Attacked Include:

Areas Of _____.

When we arrived in Macedonia, there was no rest for us. We faced conflict from every direction, with battles on the outside and fear on the inside. ⁶But God, who encourages those who are discouraged, encouraged us by the arrival of Titus. II Corinthians 7:5-6 (NLT)

Out of fear of the _____ too often we settle
for the _____ of the familiar.

Areas Of _____.

Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God's unmerited favor to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it].

Hebrews 4:16 (AMP)

Areas Of _____.

Whenever our hearts in [tormenting] self-accusation make us feel guilty and condemn us. [For we are in God's hands.] For He is above and greater than our consciences (our hearts), and He knows (perceives and understands) everything [nothing is hidden from Him]. I John 3:20 (AMP)

Areas Of _____.

For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. II Corinthians 10:4-5 (NAS)

Areas Of _____.

Throughout their lives, they live under a cloud—frustrated, discouraged, and angry. Ecclesiastes 5:17 (NLT)

My days are past, my purposes and plans are frustrated; even the thoughts (desires and possessions) of my heart [are broken off]. Job 17:11(AMP)

Areas Of _____.

Exercise foresight and be on the watch to look [after one another], to see that no one falls back from and fails to secure God's grace (His unmerited favor and spiritual blessing), in order that no root of resentment (rancor, bitterness, or hatred) shoots forth and causes trouble and bitter torment, and the many become contaminated and defiled by it— Hebrews 12:15 (AMP)

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:12-14 (NIV)

Only those who have greatly failed will truly appreciate this story.

Will they ever forgive me?
Can I ever forgive myself?

Coming To Grips With My Past Requires Forgiveness

Peter was in charge of his own failure.
Christ took charge of restoring him.

Behind this story lies a wonderful, liberating, hope-filled truth:
Failure is an event, not a destiny. This is good news because we all fail sooner or later, and if we are honest, we all fail over and over again. As Peter's story abundantly proves, it's not our initial failure that ruins us. It's what happens next that matters.

Failure doesn't mean you have blown everything. It means you have some hard lessons to learn.
It doesn't mean you are a permanent loser. It means you aren't as smart as you thought you were.
It doesn't mean you should give up. It means you need the Lord to show you the next step.
It doesn't mean that God has abandoned you. It means that God a better plan.

Only those who have greatly failed will truly appreciate this story.
If you have only failed in small things, then you will not be deeply moved. But if you have known the shame of large failure, then listen up. This story is for you.

When we have failed, especially when we have failed those we love the most, our mind becomes a swirl of emotions—
Embarrassment . . . Anger . . . Fear . . . Shame . . . Despair. *We feel dirty and unworthy because we acted foolishly.* When we have hurt someone deeply, we want to know if they still love us or have we blown everything?

My Family/Friends

My Fantasy

I Peter 2:9 (NAS)

Upcoming Messages In The **IDentity Theft** Series:

February 13 Who Do You Think You Are?
February 20 Getting Past My Past
February 27 The Battle Within

God comes on the scene before you can understand my destiny you have to understand my identity
Before you can walk in your destiny you must walk in your identity
Before you can walk in gods plan for your life as a father, as a husband, a man of god as a single adult, before you can walk in God's promises you have to under stand you identity

Your choices and my choices are always based on who I think I am.
Always

They are based on my identity. My self esteem. How do I look at myself? What do I think of my self?

Before I can walk in my destiny before I can walk in the promises of God I have to figure out WHO AM I? You have to settle the issue of WHO AM I?

“Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” -1 Peter 5:8b (NIV)

Memory is a good thing, it's a gift from God. And before the Fall, it was put in there so that you could sustain a relationship. How could you sustain a relationship with anybody if you couldn't remember anything? You can't have a relationship with anybody because you can't remember anything and so there's no way to build a relationship. You don't know who they are and you have no history. **But sin works on the memory too.** You're glad for your memory because that's why you have relationships. And it's wonderful to reprocess the blessings and benedictions and joys of life. You can think about the good things of life, of how you're loved and how you love and wonderful experiences and reprocess those and enjoy them. In fact, sometimes you will find the memory of events that were good is even sweeter than the event when it happened. You can find in your memory the ability to even embellish a vacation and make it better than it was because you can't remember how much it cost. So memory rolls through the good things and that was God's intention so that we could enjoy the richness of life and savor those kinds of things. But at the same time, memory has a downside since the Fall and that is we have a hard time forgetting our sins. And so what happens is, our lustful hearts, a corruption that is **in us, recycles those sins and we savor the pleasure of those sins all over again.**

Sin has a way of reprocessing itself. It's sometimes a sound, or sometimes a smell, or sometimes a photograph, or sometimes a common place or a sight that provokes a memory in the mind and temptations come running back. It can be thoughts of anger, it can be thoughts of vengeance. It can be old hatreds that long ago should have been forgotten. All kinds of tempting memories lodge in the mind and produce new sins every time we cycle back and find pleasure in remembering the sin. **We want our youth to understand that how you live your life in your youth may dictate the character of temptation that you're going to have in the future because if you fill your young life with sin, you will not forget it and it will wind up being recycled.** All your bad relationships, all your bad attitudes, all your evil deeds, all the hypocrisies, all the lies, all the times you cheated on the tests, all of that will assault your conscience not only at the time, but it will come back again. It will be reprocessed. To bring back a memory of a past sin is to induce a sin all over again.

And somebody will ask the question, “Can someone who is truly repentant about a sin still harvest pleasure from that sin, just from the memory of that sin?” The answer is yes, because of the deceitfulness of your own heart and the sinful tendencies of your flesh and your memory.

In Ezekiel 23:19, the Lord condemned Israel and He condemned Israel for recycling old sins.

Principle #2:

If God tells us who we are, but we continue to believe differently, we SABATOGUE OUR OWN POTENTIAL.

MY IDENTITY IN CHRIST PRAYER:

I praise you LORD for choosing me, for adopting me
into your family through Jesus. Thank you that in Christ,
I am deeply loved, totally forgiven and complete.

1 Corinthians 2:9 (NIV)

"No eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
no mind has conceived
what God has prepared for those who love him"

I Am Chosen By God.

LIE – I Don't Matter

I Am Forgiven

LIE – My Sin Disqualifies Me

I am Made holy

LIE – I am not good enough

I am treasured by God

LIE -

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12-13 (NAS)

My Identity Governs My Thought Life.

Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:13 (NAS)

My Identity Guides My Actions.

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹²Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.

1 Peter 2:11-12 (NIV)

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, ¹⁵but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; ¹⁶because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY." ²²Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart.

1 Peter 1:14-16; 22 (NAS)

My Identity Brings Glory To God.

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may **declare the praises of him who called you ...**" *-1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)*

"Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion **looking for someone to devour.**" *-1 Peter 5:8b (NIV)*

• Lie #1 – You are Worthless

• Application Point – Remember the Father

• Key Point – The key point here reminds us that Christians are known as children of God. Satan will try to rob us of our identity so that we will stray off the path of righteous living. We are of value because we are His children

Declaration #2 – I am Delivered by the Son

• Ephesians 2:8-9 – For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

• Lie #2 – You are Despised

• Application Point – Remember the Cross

• Key Point – The second key point reminds us that no matter what our past is like, we do not have to carry the baggage with us because we are delivered not by what we do rather by what Christ has done for us.

Sermon Break: Doug will Sing "Remember Me"

Declaration #3 – I am Redeemed by the Blood

• 1 Peter 1:17-19 – Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

• Lie #3 – You are Condemned

Cicero Christian Church Tim Lueking Sermon Summary September 23, 2007

• Application Point – Remember the Blood

• Key Point – The third key point focuses our attention on the simple fact that we are redeemed by the Son of God and that Satan will do everything He can to try to prove to us that we are not redeemed. He wants us to live in a state of hopelessness and despair which cannot be found in the presence of those that are

redeemed by the atoning blood of Jesus!

Declaration #4 – I Am a New Creation

• **Lie #4 – You Can Never Change**

• **Application Point – Remember the Prize**

• Key Point – The final point comes to us as we make the declaration of our

allegiance to and reliance upon our Savior. The fact is that we will never be able

to accomplish lasting change on our own but we can overcome our obstacles of

this life through reliance on Jesus Christ.