

Identify Theft Protection

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Identity:

Who someone is, the name of a person, the qualities, beliefs that make a particular person or group different from others

We often define ourselves based on our family name, race, political view, religious affiliation.

Our personal identity can be molded and defined by the following:

- People - their opinions of who we are (you are just like your dad etc.)
- Current circumstances - divorce, illness etc.
- Past mistakes or sins - Letting our past failures dictate our current identity which can hold us captive to fear.

Our identify or how we define ourselves can ultimately determine our destiny. How we see ourselves impacts our present reactions and future decisions!

Paul's Journey:

- Received formal training (Gamaliel-most outstanding rabbi teacher at the time)
- He witnessed and approved the death of Stephen
- Paul (Saul) initiated the persecution of Christians
- Life radically changed due to a Word from the Lord
- Became known as the apostle of the gentiles

Philippians 3:8-14New International Version (NIV)

8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in[a] Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. 10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

12 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. 13 Brothers 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, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

- Paul defined his identity through Christ
- Paul focussed on what Christ accomplished

Who does God say that we are?

2 Corinthians 5:17 New International Version (NIV)

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:[a] The old has gone, the new is here!

1 Peter 2:9 New International Version (NIV)

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

John 15:15-16 New International Version (NIV)

15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

Your identity is not based on what you have done, but what He has done!

Identity Theft Protection (what is our role)?

Identity Theft:

The illegal use of someone else's information in order to get money or credit.

The enemy's strategy is to steal your identify, kill your dreams and destroy your destiny. But God has come to give you life abundantly

1): Wrap yourself in the Word (what are you feasting on?)

2 Timothy 3:16-17 New International Version (NIV)

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Matthew 4:4 New International Version (NIV)

4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'[a]"

- You cannot live off of 1 meal a week! Feast on His word daily
- Declare His word

- We are His boots on the ground - walk out the Word!

1): Wage War in your mind:

Philippians 4:8 New International Version (NIV)

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

2 Corinthians 10:5 New International Version (NIV)

5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

- Take responsibility for what you meditate on
- Be aware of outside influences
- Take on God's view not the world view

2): Worship:

Worship:

- To kiss the hand to (towards) one, in token of reverence
- In the NT by kneeling or prostration to do homage (to one) or make obeisance, whether in order to express respect or to make supplication

Romans 12:1-2 New International Version (NIV)

A Living Sacrifice

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- Worship is a life style
 - This is how we declare God's worth
 - Worship is God focused and not self focused
 - God reveals Himself to us and through us in worship
- We need to make every effort to protect our identity in Christ.

Identity Confessions

- Through Christ I am a new creation
- By His grace I am called
- Because of Christ I choose to walk holy
- With Christ I am more than a conqueror
- I am a follower of Christ!

