

Spiritual Identity Theft

Romans 8:12-17; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

We have all either heard about it or have experienced it - identity theft. On the spiritual plain, Satan's number one tool to destroy you is to steal your identity, Christ in you!

Please understand this: What you do flows from who you are. As a Christian, you live *from* your identity, not *for* your identity. You are defined by who you are *in* Christ, not what you do or fail to do *for* Christ. Christ defines who you are by who He is and what He's done for you, in you, and through you. Understanding this information is the key to your transformation. When you know who you are, you know how to live. Only if your identity is rooted in your relationship with God, above the ever-changing circumstances of your life, can your identity be life-proof and get you through any and every situation.

Satan declares war on your identity because he knows it is perhaps the surest way to wreck the relationship between us and our God. Satan refused to accept his God-given identity and instead sought to form a new identity apart from God. He tempts you to do the same, which is demonic. God created you with an identity, and Satan wants you to instead live out a counterfeit identity.

The demonic war on identity started when Adam and Eve encountered the serpent. The serpent started by attacking the very identity of God, then he attacked their identity.

As a Christian, you must base your identity upon two things, perhaps the most important things you can learn studying the Bible: (1) who God really is and (2) who God says you really are. It is no surprise that demonic attack starts on those two fronts with Satan giving a counterfeit identity for God and you. If you have a wrong view of God, and/or who you are in relation to God, then everything in your life spins out of control, as it did for Adam and Eve.

Satan wanted them to achieve an identity by rebellion and living apart from God so that, "you will be like God." God made us in His "likeness" and all we need to do is receive this identity. When Satan tempted our first parents to become "like God" he was lying because they were already made in God's likeness and all they needed to do was trust that fact by faith.

Satan tried this same trick on Jesus in Luke 4:1-13 when he tried to trick Jesus into giving up His identity as the Son of God.

There is no authority in all of creation equal or superior to God the Father. When He says Jesus is the Son of God, *that is a forever fact*. With the Trinity present at Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit comes down to empower Jesus to live out His God-given identity and now does the same for you and me.

Jesus always worked from the identity received from the Father and not from the identity He achieved on His own. The same is true of you. You are a child of God; your identity is secure. You can from that identity with joy and gladness, knowing the Father's love is secure.

Most of us Christians are unaware that Satan is attacking us. His subtle behavior, however, is detectable. When he speaks, he speaks in the second person, *you*. When a physical being speaks to you in the second person, you know the source. When a spiritual being speaks to you in the second person, you must decide if the source is God or Satan. This can be hard since the source is unseen.

Here are some examples of common Satanic attacks on the identity of believers which are counterfeit lies seeking to undermine the truth of who God says His people are:

- You are worthless.
- You are a failure.
- You got what you deserved.
- You will never change.
- You are hopeless.
- You are disgusting.
- You are not a real Christian.
- God is sick of you.
- If people knew what you were really like, they would all hate you.
- You are probably going to hell.
- You should kill yourself.

These sorts of things are demonic. Our Father does not say things like this to any of His kids.

Tragically, some people overlook the demonic and think they are saying awful things to themselves. They wrongly assume negative self-talk and a low self-image when the truth is, they are under attack. This leads to self-contempt. You catch yourself cursing yourself.

Even worse, some people confuse the demonic messages as a Word from God. This leads to God-contempt, as Satan is so tricky that he will try to get you to believe that his attack is from your Father. When you receive a message regarding your identity in the second person, you need to test it by the Word of God. Jesus did this. When Satan attacked Jesus' identity, He kept quoting Scripture because truth casts out lies and light casts out darkness. Jesus kept saying, "It is written..." and quoting Scripture. Jesus did not get defensive or coerced into an argument. Jesus let the battle be between Satan and the Word of God because that's a battle that the Word always wins.

Here is what the Word of God says about you: ***You are the property of the Lord Jesus Christ.*** You belong to God. You are a member of the King's family. 1 John 3:1

You can run into your Father's arms without fear and shame. You are welcomed and wanted. Your place in your Father's heart is secure. You are not second-class citizens. You have been adopted. You are granted all the rights, the favors, and the legality of being "sons" of the King. You are an heir and co-heir with Christ. Romans 8:15-17

In roman law, when someone is adopted into another family, the past is erased and cannot be brought back up again. 2 Corinthians 5:17

As a child of the living God, you are no longer defined by your past, your wounds, or your sins. Your identity is not based on your failures but on the finished work of Christ. You are his innocent, chosen child, magnificent in his sight.

You were chosen before the foundations of the earth to be holy. You are loved beyond telling. You are the beloved of Jesus, the prize of Heaven. You are Christ's ambassador. You are bringing the kingdom of God with you wherever you go. You are utterly captivating. And Satan hates you—but Jesus has conquered, defeated, and disarmed him, and you have authority over him.

The victory has been won. You can rest in what God has accomplished for you and from that place of victory, you have everything you need to stand firm, resist the devil and enforce the Truth.

Press in, beloved of God. Dive into the reality and marinate in the truth of who you are in Christ. **You are who the King of kings says you are.** Heidelberg Catechism. Q and A 1