Altered Identity!

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INTRODUCTION

- Names can be important, but true identity, even more so, including others' perceptions of who we are.
- What you know about God and the names by which he reveals himself throughout Scripture is very important in your response to him.
- The point of this morning's sermon is that the way you see yourself in Christ is perhaps more important than you thought.

1 Christians Are Not Called Sinners

James 5:19–20; Romans 3:10; 1 Timothy 1:15

- Her point was that in the New Testament, Christians are not called sinners.
- Her concern and mine is that if we see ourselves as a miserable lot of sinners, that perhaps that has a negative impact on our behavior.
- When I speak of Christians in relation to this term sinner, I am not suggesting whatsoever that we should forget our not so glorious past.

2 Justified in Christ: Our New Identity

Romans 3:26; Ephesians 2:1–6

- In Christ, Jew or Gentile, recipients of the grace and work of Jesus Christ, having responded submissively for salvation, they have now reclaimed what is lost. They have become justified.
- It is true that our past is that of sinner, but no more. We have found justification in Christ.
- That is our new identity. Our identity in Christ is not sinners. That's who we were.
- But God, rich in mercy, rich in love. When we were dead in our transgressions. He made us alive together with Christ.

3 A Chosen Race, a Royal Priesthood

- But now I am a priest of God set apart, cleansed for his special services.
- You are a chosen race. A royal priesthood. A people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light.
- We are chosen. We are birthed by God into a new sphere and realm. We are saints, like the term priest. We are joint heirs.
- We are citizens of a better country. We are complete in Christ. We are sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise. We are more than conquerors.

4 My Occasional Failure Is Not Final

James 3:2

- To admit to the problem of stumbling and the issues that we have to deal with in our spiritual warfare is not to suggest that we're stumbling every day or all the time.
- But my occasional failure is not final.
- Molding ourselves after Christ and setting our affections on things above and not on things of the earth is going to be a lifelong process and pursuit.
- We need positive affirmations, not negative assessments.

5 This Is the Victory: Confidence in Him

Hebrews 10:35–39; Psalm 139:23–24; Acts 26:18

- This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith.
- In order that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence which we have before him.
- When I say I am confident of going to heaven, my confidence is in him and what he is able to do. Not my perfection.
- Do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. That's not a confidence in me, it's a confidence in him.

6 The Ultimate Identity: A New Name

Revelation 2:17; Revelation 3:5; Revelation 3:12

- To him who overcomes, I will give him some of the hidden manna. And I'll give him a white stone. And a new name written on the stone, which no one knows.
- You'll have a special, unique identity and relationship with the king.
- I will write upon him the name of my God. We will share God's identity.
- He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with me on my throne, reigning with the king.

THE CHALLENGE

If that's not your identity, you need to get on board right away. Become his child, become one of his chosen. Find redemption in Christ and justification.

MY NOTES