

# IDENTITY THEFT

## Part 2

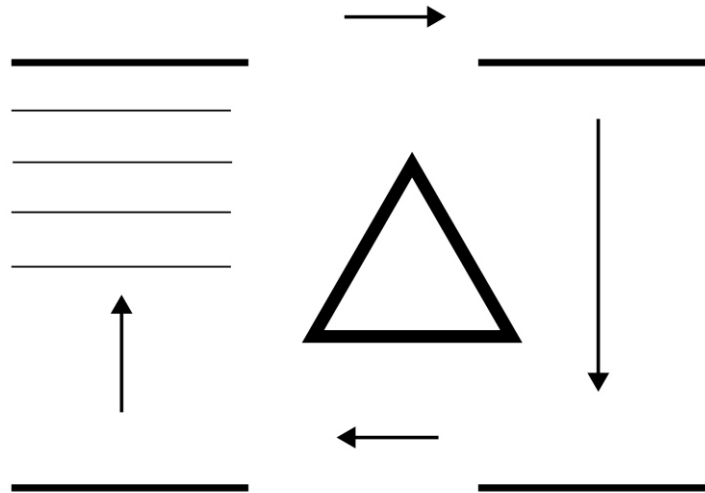
### "Does My Past Define Me?"

#### Introduction/Review:

Remember how your identity is formed. Our experiences lead us to believe certain things about ourselves, which leads us to feel certain ways about ourselves, which then leads us to act out of that.

Our past experiences don't define us, though, if we are believers. We are not bound by that old identity. We don't have to act out of past experiences. We can replace those old experiences with new ones.

Your Real Identity: *Our Identity + God's Opinion = Significance*



Every believer can embrace their TRUE identity by asking themselves these 4 questions:

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NIV)

"Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

1. Who was I?
  - a. In bondage to our sins
    - i. Romans 6:17 (NLT) Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin
    - ii. Romans 3:10-12 (NLT) "No one is righteous - not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one."
  - b. Separate from God
    - i. Romans 2:8 (NLT) But he will pour out his anger and wrath on those who live for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and instead live lives of wickedness.
  - c. Alone
  - d. Lord of our own lives
  - e. Addicted to worshipping ourselves...Money, Power, Alcohol, Sex, Religion
2. Who am I now?
  - a. Set free from sin
    - i. Romans 6:18 (NIV) "You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness."
    - ii. Romans 6:11 (NLT) So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.
    - iii. Romans 8:1 (NLT) So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

- b. Set apart for a purpose
    - i. Ephesians 2:10 (NLT) For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.
    - ii. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old is gone, the new has come!"
  - c. In process The goal of my faith is the salvation of my soul.
    - i. Philippians 2:12 (NIV) Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.
3. What part does my past play for me?
- a. It doesn't define me. (conquered general)
    - i. Romans 7:17 (NIV) "As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me."
    - ii. Romans 7:21-23 (NLT) I have discovered this principle of life that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.
  - b. It reminds me of the grace that I am in constant need of. (guardrails)
  - c. It points me to the cross.
  - d. It brings glory to God..."if he can bring me this far...he can bring anyone this far."
4. What part does my past play for others?
- a. God can use it if He chooses to help others not go down that path.
  - b. It can help me forgive those who are hurting me...and operating out of their past.
  - c. It helps me not be so judgmental of others.

Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright 1996, 2004. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, IL 60189. All rights reserved.

Quotations marked NIV are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version. Copyright 1978 by New York International Bible Society.