

SOUTH
SHORE
community church

GROWTH
soul care





Identity

- High School groups – athletes, smart kids, musical kids, etc.
- Identity is an important part of your inner well being. How does one develop an identity that leads to a healthy inner life?



Identity

- Romans 5:5-8, “God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who had been given to us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.



Identity

- Romans 5:5-8, “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
- Notice the condition we were in when Christ died for us. We were powerless. Powerless to change. Powerless to save ourselves. Powerless to establish worth or identity that leads to a healthy inner life.



Identity

- God loved us not only when we were powerless, He loved us enough to die for us when we were 'ungodly.'
Someone might die for Mother Teresa, but what would cause someone to die for a wicked person? Only divine love. (e.g., parent love – weak analogy)
- Our identity is secured through divine love. Paul later penned these words ...

Identity

- Romans 8:31f, “If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then can condemn? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God

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Identity

- Romans 8:31f, “and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? . . . No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future,

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Identity

- Romans 8:31f, “nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- Identity is a gift we receive from God. It is not established. The issue of our value was settled on the cross. Our identity is not dependent upon whether or not certain people like us or our performance.



Identity

- Our identity is like a foundation in our lives. Any other foundation, but the love of God, will be a shaky foundation. (love of others – people pleasing, manipulation, neediness, anxiety) (performance – driven; envy & covetousness; performance anxiety) We must shift our lives to this true foundation.



Identity

- We must secure our identity in the love of God if we are going to have a healthy inner life, a deep and peaceful soul. Sometimes people get this truth in their heads, but they never get established on the true foundation. (Identity Wound - hole in the bucket – not affirmed) (bent will – victimized, not a victim – eyes off you, and onto Him; deliverance)



Identity

- The issue of your value was settled at the cross. The love of God is a sure foundation under our feet. But, we must stand on that foundation. You are not stuck in the weightiness of your past woundedness. The darkness of the past does not define the limits of your future, because Jesus has overcome.