

IDENTITY THEFT – DON'T LET IT HAPPEN TO YOU

9 million people last year in America had their identity stolen
Every 3 seconds in America there is an identity theft
221 Billion dollars lost worldwide last year

You need to guard your identity because there are thieves out there in the world planning to steal... even from you.

I. Identity Theft

Matthew 3:13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. 16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Matthew 4:1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

WE MUST GET OUR IDENTITY FROM GOD

A. We cannot let **CIRCUMSTANCES** of life define us.

- † "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:18
- † Satan tried to get Jesus to shift His focus from the Spiritual to the Natural when he tempted Him while He was in a weakened condition, hungry and alone.

We are Human Beings – Not Human Doings

- † Next he tempts Him to PERFORM for Him, throw yourself down. Our identity does not come from what we can do.

B. We cannot let **THE APPROVAL OF MAN** define us.

- † "Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ." Galatians 1:10

C. We cannot let the **OLD SELF** define us.

† "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry... put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator." Colossians 3:5, 10

II. The **ILLUSTRATION OF** Identity: (Luke 15:11-25 THE PRODIGAL)

When the prodigal came to his senses (HE REMEMBERED HE WAS A SON) he came home to his father's house.

We must receive the love of Father God, that's how we get our identity. Verse 20

III. The Truth of our Identity:

A. We are the **SONS and DAUGHTERS** of God.

† "I will be a Father to you, and you will be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." 2 Corinthians 6:18

"The Son of God became the Son of Man so that you who were the son's of men might be made the son's of God." Augustine

B. Our identity is revealed in the **DIVINE INTENT** of God.

† "...all things were created by Him and for Him." Colossians 1:16

GOD DEFINES WHO YOU ARE

† Matthew 16:13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" 14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."