

Identity Theft – 3

Approximately 15 million United States residents have their identities used fraudulently each year with financial losses totaling upwards of \$50 billion.*

On a case-by-case basis, that means approximately 7% of all adults have their identities misused with each instance resulting in approximately \$3,500 in losses.

John 10:10

10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. NKJV

- Events in our life steal our true identity
- Most of us are living as a shadow of who we were created to be at best – hiding, pretending – in disguise
- The word of God is your LifeLock to protecting your spiritual identity

The Devil will try to steal your identity, kill your dreams and destroy the plan of God for your life

You are who you think you are

If you think you are the kid that always gets picked on that's who you are

If you think you'll never have enough money, you won't

If you think you'll never get ahead, you won't.

If you think you're the smartest, greatest – you're not!

No Slide: Psalm 33:15

15 He fashions their hearts individually;
He considers all their works. NKJV

Ephesians 1:3-4

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the
heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him
before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy
and without blame before Him in love. NKJV

No Slide: Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew
in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he
planned for us long ago. NLT

Philippians 3:9

9 and be found in Him , not having my own righteousness,
which is from the law, but that which is through faith in
Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;
NKJV

When we don't trust God with our identity we start to
believe we are someone that we're not.
It could be an empire that we think we've built.
It may be an image that has been seared on our conscience
by a series of life events.
Either way we are building our life on a false self image.
Any image of self that doesn't come from Father God is a
false identity

Saul was a king who believed everything he had was based on who he was

- He didn't consider God – he wasn't obedient to God
- He took life into his own hands
- When we start to live this way (Pride) we think that everything we do is OK because we or our circumstances become the truth to us
- We skirt the issues – Integrity is lost

Real Truth can only come from God

- You can only receive and live out of that truth through humility
- Samuel tells Saul to attack Amalek and utterly destroy all that they have
- Saul decides to spare king Agag and keep the best of the spoils

1 Samuel 15:12

12 So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal." NKJV

1 Samuel 15:14-15

14 But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?"

15 And Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed." NKJV

- "The people"?
- Who am I blaming?

1 Samuel 15:17-19

17 So Samuel said, "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel? 18 Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' 19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? NKJV

- The Bible says Saul was a head and shoulders taller than everyone else
- Was he the star athlete his whole life?
- Did he start to believe what others said about him?
- Did he forget what God called him to?

The rocks of the wild goats – Saul's been persecuting David

1 Samuel 24:1-7

1 Now it happened, when Saul had returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, "Take note! David is in the Wilderness of En Gedi." 2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel, and went to seek David and his men on the Rocks of the Wild Goats.

3 So he came to the sheepfolds by the road, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to attend to his needs. (David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave.) 4 Then the men of David said to him, "This is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.'" And David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

5 Now it happened afterward that David's heart troubled him because he had cut Saul's robe .

6 And he said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD." 7 So David restrained his servants with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul. And Saul got up from the cave and went on his way. NKJV

- Saul is relentlessly pursuing David
 - He has tried to kill him
 - David had every reason to take Saul's life.
 - David had plenty of time to change his mind
- #1 or #2?

It's one thing to walk in power but another to have will power

It took courage to defeat Goliath but it took integrity to not kill Saul

Integrity is allowing God to work on the inside while we trust Him with our identity and destiny

Who am I when I'm alone?

When I'm waiting on the dream?

Even when we have been mistreated or misled by others

Matthew 5:3-10

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
NKJV

- When we stop living for selfish purposes
(Me focused) our destiny comes into focus
- Surrender is the key

Luke 14:8-11

8 "When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him; 9 and he who invited you and him come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place.
10 But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. 11 For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." NKJV

- So many of our problems come from wanting to be recognized
- We think it will bring justification
- We think it will finally bring acceptance – already are
- We think it will make everything better
- I'll show them
- Maybe we were told we would never make it
- Maybe we were only accepted when we excelled

John 10:18

18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father." NKJV

- Dunamis – (Power) Lame walk, blind see, etc.
- Exousia – Power to not do something that I could
 - **Matthew 26:53** Legion 6000 x 12 = 72,000
- This is where integrity comes in to play
- Who am I when no one is around?
- Am I content with the His work in me?

John 8:29

29 And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."NKJV

It's a matter of integrity – doing the right thing when no one is looking

I am only concerned with pleasing him

Am I allowing God to work integrity into the fiber of my being?

Will I allow him to bring healing in my life so I don't lash out and defend myself when I am abused?

Am I content with making my own identity or allowing Him to reveal my true identity? This is found in Him.

When my identity is in Him I no longer need to defend or protect myself.

When I live this way I step out from under God's protection.

I can live a life of freedom because I am not afraid to be known by Him intimately which brings me the confidence I need to face every obstacle that would try to steal my true identity.

“When you violate your conscience, you put your own reputation at risk. You also have to become your own advocate, because you have stepped outside of God’s will. When we submit our lives to God’s authority by living with integrity, then we come under His umbrella of authority.”
Mark Batterson – Soul Print

1 Samuel 24:11-12, 15

11 See what I have in my hand? It is the hem of your robe! I cut it off, but I didn't kill you! Doesn't this convince you that I am not trying to harm you and that I have not sinned against you, even though you have been hunting for my life? 12 "The Lord will decide between us. Perhaps he will kill you for what you are trying to do to me, but I will never harm you.

15 May the Lord judge as to which of us is right and punish whichever one of us is guilty. He is my lawyer and defender, and he will rescue me from your power!" TLB

- Is God my defender?
- Do I treat others with integrity?
- Do I live life out of my identity?
- Do I live life out of my identity “In Christ”