

Single & Single-Again TUES NITES Meal, Message & Mixer

Let's Have Some Fun.....It Doesn't Have To Be Scary!

Jane Stolz' video teaching, handout, and audio Mp3 file of this message will be online to share with others at www.christiansinglesindenver.com

Our Identity In Christ – Discovering the Real You

Until we find our identity, we will be searching for the rest of our lives for peace and fulfillment.

The Truth About Our Identity

As adults, the most common place we find our identity is in our O_____. When you meet a person and ask what he or she does, invariably that person answers, "I'm a businessman," or "I'm a school teacher," or "I'm a Doctor," or "I'm a Lawyer," or "I'm a housewife," and so on. That person's identity is totally tied up in what he or she does.

Because of this false identity, many people suffer from severe depression, discouragement, apathy, and even die within a few years of retiring. Housewives after their children have left home, feel that they are no longer needed and have lost their identity. These women are prime candidates for depression; the empty nest robs them of the feeling of being needed.

Identifying the Real You

You are a C_____ of G_____!

"To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).

But when we receive Christ into our hearts as our Lord and Savior, He comes to take up residence in us and now we are children of God. Our new I _____ and V _____ comes from who lives in us.

You are a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir (Gal 4:7)

One of the functions of the Holy Spirit is to continually remind us of this T_____. Romans 8:15-16 says, "You did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba Father," The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."

You Are a Forgiven Person

While on the cross, Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34) This forgiveness was extended to those who beat Him, spat on Him,

cursed Him, stripped Him of His clothes, mocked Him, jammed a crown of thorns on His head, and nailed Him to a cross.

Often people say that they can't forgive themselves. I ask you this.... Are your moral standards higher than those of God Himself? Think about this God might have been able to forgive my sins, but I can't forgive them because my standards are higher than those of Jesus."

Because of Christ's death on the cross, God is no longer dealing with you on the basis of sin and death. The punishment for all your sins was placed upon the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, there is no more punishment left for you (Romans 8:1) God is satisfied with the work of Christ on our behalf. There is nothing left for Him to do in regard to sin. That is why the apostle Paul boldly proclaims, "He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:13-14). If you are in Christ, you not only have redemption, you also have forgiveness of sins.

As wonderful as it is for God to forgive us, He did not S_____ there. As the Bible says, He became sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21)

You are now living as a new creation, clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Therefore, you and I stand in the presence of God wearing His righteousness, not our own. You cannot perfect yourself or make yourself more pleasing to God. He has already accomplished everything for you in Jesus.

You Are the Body of Christ

You Are Sealed in Christ

In Ephesians 1:13 Paul tells us what happens at the moment of salvation: "You also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

You Are Free

In Galatians 5:1, Paul wrote, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

You Are Totally Loved by God the Father

The apostle John wrote, "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1).

How To Experience the Real You

As Christians, we live by faith. What is faith? It's "being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1).

In order to have our minds renewed we must first rely upon the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth about Christ to us!

Letting Go of the Past

Paul says in Philippians 3:13, “Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it (the goal of Christ for us). But one thing I do; Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

God’s Love Is the Key

Understanding the need to continually be controlled by the love of God was the key that enabled the apostle Paul to live above his tribulations. As he came to the end of each trial in life, he came out of that experience more assured of God’s love than when he entered it.

As we come to understand God’s perfect love and acceptance, we will discover – miraculously – that our fears are gone ...and our depression as well.

Christ gave His life for us in order to live His life through us. He never intended for us to live the Christian life in and of ourselves.

If God is for us, who can be against us?

From Tragedy to Triumph

Scripture says that God “is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine” (Ephesians 3:20).

We’re Important to God

God has a plan that is bigger than all of us. God DOES cause all things to work together for good to those who love Him!

Having a Thankful Spirit

Thanksgiving is an essential part of renewing your mind

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Discussion Questions:

**In discussion our true identity, have you ever
Lost a job and realized you have placed your
identity in what you do? Do you think you
currently think that way now?**

**When talking about the forgiveness we
Received from Christ on the Cross, were you
or have you struggled with something you've
done that you haven't forgiven yourself for?
In light of what we talked about, do you think
it's time to let go of that and move on? Can
you let go?**

**Do you believe you are totally loved by the
Father?**

**After tonight do you have a better
Understanding of God's love for you? If yes,
share with your table why and how that
makes you feel. If you have been someone
who knows how much God loves you, share
a bit of your testimony of how you got there.**

HELPFUL TIPS for Great Table Discussions Each table should have a designated Table Host.

1. Use God's ear-to-mouth ratio:

Listen two times more than you speak. 1 or 2 people should not dominate the time, and EVERYONE should contribute during the discussion.

2. Smile and be friendly.

Avoid excessive complaining about people or personal problems.

3. God's grace rules the day

Recognize that everyone will not always agree – be gracious and give grace to one another. People are at different places in their spiritual walk and in their life journey.

4. Moving the discussion along.

Table host/facilitators are to move the discussion along. They have permission to limit any negative comments, to invite people to answer a question, to ask someone for their perspective, to limit the amount of time some people speak, and to move on to the next question.

5. Help for the hurting:

This is a supportive group, but it is not a support group or a therapy session. But if someone is really hurting, take a moment and have someone in the group specifically pray for them.