

Session Seven: The Christian's True Identity

1 John 3: 8

† Internalized/Powerful Error

Subtle Authority Structures
Intuitive Responses

Doubt/Unbelief

Anger

Fear

Obsessions

Pride

Control

† A Key to Understanding Self-Control

You are a Person
That's Who you are

Your Functions are
Simply How You Function

PERSON

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Mind (Thoughts)

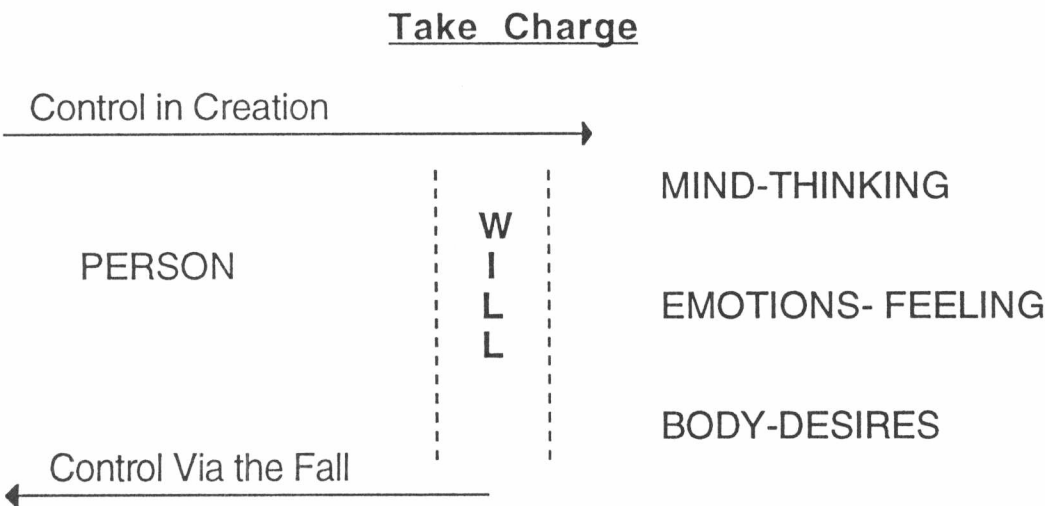
Emotions (Feelings)

Body (Desires)

✝ Taking Charge of our Thinking

- A. Our thought life has a direct bearing on all our other functions. What we think on causes a reaction of our will (choices), our body (desires), and our emotions (feelings). Our thinking will also begin a process that will lead to other thoughts.
- B. To understand how to live successfully we must learn how our mind is related to our other functions and how to “take charge” of our thinking.
- I. Your Thoughts Are Not You - They Are Simply A Manifestation Of One Of Your Functions.

PERSON	W I L L	Mind (Thoughts) Emotions (Feelings) Body (Desires)
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† The True Self-worth of a Christian

Introduction:

- A. We know from the Bible, as well as from science, the power of truth and error.
- B. One of the most important truths that we must know, if we are to be successful Christians, is to understand the truth about ourselves.
- C. Many of our problems, failures, and sins, are largely due to our misunderstanding of the kind of persons we are. One profound result of this is our lack of self-worth. We have accepted error about who we are.

I. God Created us in His Own Image.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness, and let them have dominion...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them. Gen. 1:26-27

- A. We must begin with our creation in order to understand ourselves. Since God is a Person of infinite perfection, to be created in His image means we are persons of great value.
- B. To be a person means not only self-consciousness but self determination. We have the ability to make profound decisions. As a person we have many rights: to be heard, to have emotions, to have needs, to have our needs met, to have our own opinion, to speak, to love and to be loved, to be treated with respect, to develop potential, to enjoy life. God treats us as persons. Gen. 1-3
- C. What rights did God give to Adam and Eve?
 - 1. Gen 1:27-To know they were created by God.
 - 2. Gen 1:28-To be fruitful and have dominion.
 - 3. Gen 1:29,30- To have needs & have them met.
 - 4. Gen 1:31- To know they were created good.

5. Gen 2:15- To be alive and unique.
6. Gen 2:15- To work, to choose, to be responsible.
7. Gen 2:16- To hear God and to choose to obey Him
8. Gen 2:17- To choose to obey or disobey God.
9. Gen 2: 18- To a companion, love and equality.
10. Gen 2: 19-20- To use God given gifts.
11. Gen 21-24- To love, be loved, and be intimate.
12. Gen 2:25- To be unashamed and enjoy dignity.
13. Gen 3:8- To have fellowship with God.
14. Gen 3:9-10- To be heard when they spoke.
15. Gen 3:15, 21- To receive redemption.

D. Has God withheld any of these right gifts from you? No. While we may not demand our rights, and may not be able to receive all of them, God has given them to us.

E. Perhaps you were raised in a home without being recognized or treated as a person. Perhaps that is your situation in life now. If that is true it is inevitable that you have been taught many errors about yourself without being able to recognize what was happening. Such errors will make success in life very difficult and will open the door to the accusations, and intimidation's of the enemy. Psalm 19:12; Jer. 17:9; John 8:31-32; 1Peter 5:8-9; and Rev. 12:10.

F. We must ask ourselves, what error am I accepting about myself that is not Biblical? Perhaps you have accepted feelings of inferiority or rejection, or that you don't measure up. Perhaps you do not believe you are worthy of the blessing of God or the care of other people. Because we are fallen each of us accept many errors about ourselves.

II. God Created us as a Spiritual Person.

A. The term "spiritual" would designate the kind of a person we are. We are not basically body, mind, will emotions, or a social creature. God created us spirit like himself. He created us to know, love and glorify Him. We are by creation a sacred person. It is a terrible sin to live as though we were only body. Gen 1:26-28; 2:15-17; Exod. 19:5-6; 1 Peter 2:5, 9-10.

- B. Once we accept error about ourselves, and we all have due to the fall, we will use that error to interpret (really misinterpret) the events, relationships, and opportunities of life as well as ourselves. Without realizing it we bring confusion, hurt, and failure into many if not all of the areas of our life.
- C. Many who have accepted the error that they are an inferior and worthless kind of person, interpret those feelings as personal humility! Such a way of evaluating ourselves has nothing to do with humility. Rather, it is often a self-centered and self-protective way of life in which a person is always pointing to themselves, a way of seeking sympathy, and a way of seeking to be excused from the responsibilities others must face.
- D. When God has said to us in His Word, "I have created you in my image, you are important to me, and I have given you great abilities to walk with me and serve me." It is not a very spiritual thing we do, when we say, "No you haven't -- I'm just an inferior and worthless kind of a person." Each of us must realize how serious and wonderful it is to be a "spirit person."
- E. One of the clearest evidences that we do not know, accept, and practice the Biblical truth of self-worth is seen in our response to the Word of God. Too often we read the promises and say, "I can't be like that," or we read the commandments and say, "I can't do that." When we live with such unbelief and error in our life the result is often that of discouragement, anger, bitterness, and confusion.
- F. In the new birth we were recreated according to the pattern of our original creation. We must accept what God has said about us in spite of how we feel and learn to put these great truths into practice. Eph 4:22-24; Col 3:10; 1 Peter 2:5,9.

† False Standards of Self-Worth

Our Work
Our Possessions
Our Physique
Our Relationships
Our Position
Our Accomplishments
Our Education
Our Ability
Our Experiences
Our Emotional Stability

† Gods Message to You is NOT:

You Don't Measure up
So -- Shape Up
Or Else

† Gods Message to You IS:

I Want You
So Come
Open Your Heart to Me
Receive My Love
I Give Myself to You
Give Yourself to Me

† Deliverance and Healing

From the Tyranny
of Error & Self -Centeredness

I don't measure up. . .

I don't look like. . .

I don't have. . .

I can't do. . .

I can't be like. . .

I'm no good. . .

† The Fall

- ☐ Transferred Authority from God to Ourselves
- ☐ Transferred the Source of Authority from the Intellect to the Emotions
- ☐ We Became Vulnerable to External Control

† Person (See True Self-Worth of a Christian)

PERSON

Loved & Graced	Valuable	Holy	Spiritual
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† The Believer

