



Strength of Identity

Rooted.



Foundational Scriptures

► Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

► Matthew 16:17

Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.



Learning Objectives

- ▶ Understand the importance of having your IDENTITY rooted in Christ
- ▶ Discuss 3 states we may find ourselves in today (unaware, aware, rooted)
- ▶ Explore what God says about us
- ▶ What we KNOW vs who we are BEING
- ▶ Rooted? Bear fruit.



Ask yourself today...

➤ **#1** Where has most of what I believe to be true about me, come from?

(circumstances, experiences, your past, parents, people, yourself, God?)

➤ **#2** How does what I believe to be true about me, affect who I am BEING (or NOT being) today?

➤ **#3** How does who I am BEING (or NOT being) today, affect:

- __ God's Kingdom?
- __ The local church He's planted me in - New Creation?
- __ My family, spouse (future if unmarried), and children?



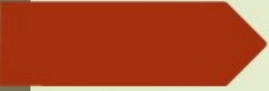
Revisit Joseph & Potiphar's Wife

► Genesis 39:7

and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"

But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. ⁹ **No one is greater in this house than I am.**

► **He speaks over himself with the confidence of GOD! You see, when he is saying there is none greater in this house than I, it's not coming from a place of boosting himself up but from a place of knowing WHOSE HE IS. Greater is He who is IN Him!!**




Let's look back up at verse 5 for a moment:

- ▶ Genesis 39:5

From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph.

- ▶ **Joseph KNEW he was set apart and he WALKED in it! He knew the God he served. He knew His glory and grace was upon him. And he lived his LIFE with glorifying God on his mind.**
- ▶ **In your day to day thoughts, how often do we really consider God in the small things? In the things we THINK we have under control or we feel we are confident in doing ON OUR OWN? Do we acknowledge Him IN ALL OUR WAYS? Honor Him in all our ways?**



Genesis 39:9 My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. **How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?**

- ▶ Identity guides our decision making.
- ▶ His immediate thoughts were on how his ACTIONS aligned with God.
- ▶ It matters to him. It's at the forefront of his mind.



Identity sets boundaries.

■ Genesis 39:10 And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her
or even be with her.


■ Has your identity in Christ ever caused you to refuse to go to certain places or to be with someone?

Identity is secure.

- ▶ Gen 39:11 One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. ¹²She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand **and ran out of the house.**

- ▶ He RAN out of the house. Are we RUNNING from the sin in our lives? Or we running to it?





Priscilla Shirer – **“You will either live UP TO or you will live DOWN TO what you believe to be true about who you are.”**


- ▶ Identity sets the STANDARDS for what you accept in your life, from others AND from yourself.

- ▶ Self worth
- ▶ Self confidence
- ▶ Value of self

Identity gives us clarity. It guides our choices and births character.



- ▶ Kings & queens wear a crown so that they are identified as royalty. It is a symbol of their identity.
- ▶ What if we wear Christ/the cross as a symbol of our identity? – not as in wearing a piece of jewelry, but literally living in such a way that our LIFESTYLE becomes a symbol of our IDENTITY in Christ.



2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

- ▶ **When we are clear about our identity in Christ everything changes. Our standards change. What we accept in our lives changes. Who we are being changes.**



Unaware – unfamiliar with & not walking in your identity in Christ

► Unsaved

Are we sharing Christ? Can we all remember when this was US? Is this you today? If so let today be the day you accept Christ into your heart as your Lord & Savior.

► Saved & Unaware

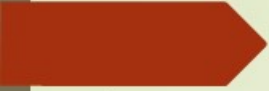
Salvation is where it all starts! It is the starting place in your identity with Christ. From there, the LOVE of God, ought to stir us to spend time with Him, getting to know Him more, studying His word, and in the process discovering more about ourselves – our new self in Christ, the Promises of God, and the instruction and character of God.

Aware – knows what God's word says, but lacks relationship, understanding, and/or personal application.



- ▶ A computer has all the data, all the information within it, but unless it's plugged in to the power source it can't do anything.

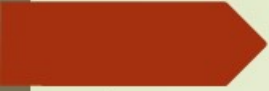
"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.



Rooted – firm in your identity,
relationship, and knowledge of Christ



- ▶ Joseph is our example of what it LOOKS like to be rooted.
- ▶ Let us all strive to get to this place – and to get to this place with a sense of urgency.





**We know who we ARE,
but it's not who we are BEING.**

- ▶ Let's look at some well known scripture and as we do, let's perform a heart check...

Where do you rate yourself –
unaware, aware, or rooted?



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- ▶ That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. ... for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." **Romans 10:9-10**
 - ▶ Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. **Isaiah 41:10**
 - ▶ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. **1 Peter 2:9**
 - ▶ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. **Psalms 139:14**




▶ "Be strong and courageous! Do not fear or tremble before them, for the LORD your God is the one who is going with you. He will not fail you or abandon you!" **Deut 31:6**

▶ So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:17-19

▶ "Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you..."- **Isaiah 43:4**


▶ "The Lord does not look at things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." -**1 Samuel 16:7**



22 But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is love [unselfish concern for others], joy, [inner] peace, patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. **Gal 5:22** Amplified

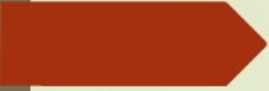
For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. ...Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.—**Matthew 25:35-36, 40** (NIV)

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “**Who do people say** the Son of Man is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 “But what about you?” he asked. “**Who do you say I am?**” 16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” 17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not **revealed** to you by flesh and blood, **but by my Father in heaven. Matthew 16:13-17**



The world, satan, will always try to break you down...

- The world tells you that you are NO GOOD.
- You're a terrible father or mother.
- You're dirty, worthless, ashamed.
- You're weird, too quiet, too loud, too big, too small, too young, too old.
- You're a whore, You're a womanizer... and it's the thing to be!
- You're flawed, imperfect
- God has placed GREATNESS in you.
- You are a leader.
- You are a GOOD MAN, a GOOD WOMAN, a loving present mother and father.
- You are a GREAT HUSBAND.
- God CAN use you to do incredible things in His kingdom.
- You are LOVED.
- Your flaws are what makes YOU the perfect one for the job – God will be all the more glorified through your yes because of your flaws



It's so important WE get this thing right..
Because we are called to TEACH those
coming behind us.

- ▶ Our sons
- ▶ Our daughters
- ▶ Our friends & family
- ▶ New Christians
- ▶ Unsaved

▶ Frederick Douglass
said:

“It is easier to build
strong children than to
repair broken men.”



Are we building up Jospeh's & Timothy's?

- ▶ Are we MENTORING? (Timothy was also very young, but Paul was there to mentor him.)
- ▶ Are we LIVING EXAMPLES?
- ▶ Are we speaking LIFE into our children and into each other?
- ▶ Are we serving in ministry?
- ▶ Are we putting effort into building relationships?



Things look different right now...

- ▶ But God is warning us not to let this TIME IN become a TIME OUT for us in His Kingdom!
- ▶ Stay rooted in your identity. Search the word for yourselves like the Bereans.
- ▶ Don't check out spiritually.
- ▶ Don't "wait" until the building opens
- ▶ Adjust to this new norm and BE ALL IN.
- ▶ Commit to your faith today.



Identity

- ▶ Breeds confidence
 - ▶ Self worth & self value
 - ▶ Sets boundaries
 - ▶ Raises our standards
 - ▶ Produces security
 - ▶ Guides our decisions & actions
 - ▶ Gives us peace
 - ▶ Reflects Christ to the world
 - ▶ Glorifies God in our lives
- ▶ As we grow in our identity in Christ, the FRUIT in our lives will blossom more and more!
 - ▶ You are who God says you are, it's all already IN YOU, choose today to PLUG IN to the power source.
 - ▶ Be the MAN/WOMAN of God, He called you to be!