

1. This morning we are going to continue with our word from the Lord for 2023. This is Your Year of Jubilee.
2. You may be wondering. How much longer are you going to be talking about jubilee?
3. The answer is, I don't know.
4. What I do know is that last July or August it was by faith that I believed God wanted me to speak this word over us.
5. In January when we began this series, it was by faith, believing God would do what he said he would do.
6. But now, it seems like everywhere I look God is renewing and restoring and giving freedom and I am not about to take my foot off the gas until I'm sure God has completed what he wants.
7. This morning we are going to consider our identity in Jesus Christ.
8. One of the things I believe the Lord is in the process of doing is restoring to us the identity he has planned for us all along. Our identity in Jesus Christ.
9. In 1 Corinthians chapter 6 Paul, who was writing this letter to the Corinthian believers asks them a very pointed question.

**TEXT:** **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

**TITLE:** **Do you, know you?**

**INTRO:**

1. In verse 18 Paul is talking to them about running away from sexual immorality. Some of the believers in Corinth were in fact engaging in immoral sexual sin.
2. So, he sums up this passage by asking them a question.
3. Don't you know who you are? Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit?
4. And the obvious answer is, no. They didn't know who they were. If they had known, then they would not have been engaging in this type of sin against their own bodies.

5. So, when I asked the question this morning. Do you know you? The reality is sometimes we do and sometimes we don't.
6. Sometimes we are not very clear about who we are in Jesus Christ. We can easily lose sight of our identity in Jesus.
7. That's because attacking our identity in Christ is one of the main tactics the enemy uses to try and defeat us.
8. The reason he attacks our identity in Christ is that if we ever fully understand and believe who we are in Jesus, the enemy will be defeated.
9. The moment we fully accept that we are loved unconditionally. That God is a good God who wants to give us good gifts. That salvation is not given because we deserved it or because we are good enough, but rather a free gift that we can't earn.
10. If we every fully accept that Jesus is all powerful and all knowing and this great God receives great joy from providing for us on a daily basis, the enemy knows his days are numbered.
11. So, he continually attacks our identity in Christ. And he does that by telling us lies.
12. John 8:44 He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
13. The devil doesn't deal in truth because the truth sets us free. Instead, he deals in lies because lies keep us bound.
14. The last part of that verse is very telling. He is a liar. He lies to us. Specifically, about who we are in Christ.
15. But he is also the father of lies. Meaning he goes around birthing lies, in an attempt to surround us with lies, often through the way others treat us.
16. His method is this. He tells us we are no good. That we are worthless. Unworthy of love.
17. And then someone around us, usually someone we have allowed to become close to us, treats us in a way that makes us feel unloved, the devil will sweep in and say, see there. I told you you were unlovable.
18. But it's a lie. It's not the truth. So how do we combat the lies the enemy constantly tells us? How can we know the truth about our

identity in Christ. Let's look at some things together.

### **Check your source.**

1. The only source of truth about our identity in Christ is Christ. All other sources are flawed.
2. Psalm 100:3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
3. God is NOT just A source of our identity; he is THE source of our identity. That's because he designed us, and he made us. Nobody knows us better than God. That's why he calls us his own.
4. But if we start believing other sources besides God (which all of us are susceptible to do) then our identity becomes damaged or marred.
5. I drive an 8 ½ year old Nissan. We bought it new. And in the beginning, I would drive it to the Nissan dealer in Searcy to have it serviced because that's the closest one.
6. Over time I got tired of driving down there, so I tried local places to get service.
7. Sometimes it worked ok, but other times it didn't.
8. One time they over filled the engine with oil. They didn't know how much to put in it.
9. Another time, the same place left the oil cap off by mistake and I didn't realize it until 500 miles later after oil had sprayed all over the engine.
10. So, I made the decision, I'm going to take it back to the dealership in Searcy because they know that vehicle.
11. Nissan designed it. Nissan manufactured it. And Nissan trained the mechanics on how to care for it.
12. About a year ago I learned the wisdom of that decision. I had the transmission fluid changed and when I was checking out, the service manager told me what they had done, and included a little piece of information I had never heard before.
13. He said, and we reset the sensor that regulates the fluid. I asked, what sensor.
14. He said, there is a sensor that has to be reset when the fluid is changed or else the transmission can be damaged. What I learned is that only a Nissan dealer would know that.

15. If I had trusted another source for servicing that transmission it could have cost me thousands of dollars later in repairs.
16. In the same way God is the only one who knows every single minute detail about the way you are made and how you were designed to function.
17. And because of that He is the only accurate and reliable source of truth about your identity in Christ.
18. The devil is not a reliable source.
19. Others are not a reliable source.
20. In fact, we are not a reliable source of our identity in Christ because often times we don't see ourselves clearly. God is the only reliable source.
21. Trusting in any other source for our identity will only lead to confusion about who we really are.
22. I go back to my question from our title. Do you, know you?
23. So, let's talk about how we trust God as the source of our identity so that we know we are getting the truth.
24. What I am about to say next is a prophetic statement. Meaning, it may not be a reality at this very moment, but I believe the Lord wants you to know it will become a reality because he says so.
25. **No longer will you be confused about your identity in Christ.**
26. God is in the process of transforming and changing the way you see yourself.
27. God is in the process of exposing all the lies so that you can be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
28. And that transformation will allow you to begin to see yourself as God sees you.
29. I want to borrow from Dr. Henry Cloud's assessment of how change occurs in our lives.
30. Change occurs as a result of truth, love, and time.

## **Truth.**

1. God has established a set of truths. A set of laws that determine who you are.

2. God has set in stone an identity that you were created with and that you were given at birth.
3. And we see evidence of the truths of our identity through the word of God the bible. Allow me to show you some examples.
  - **You are chosen.** You are of high value. You are special. 1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.
  - **You are a masterpiece.** Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (NLT)
  - **You are loved.** 1 John 3:1 See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! (NLT)
  - **God is your friend.** John 15:15 I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. (NLT)
  - **You are no longer a slave to sin.** Romans 6:6 We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.
4. I don't know if you noticed the pattern or not but in each verse it either says you are, or we are.
5. Every time in the bible where it says you are, or we are it is referring to our identity in Christ.
6. Another thing I want to point out is that there is no uncertainty in those statements. They are statements of truth and fact.
7. You are. We are. You are. We are.
8. When God says it in his word, it is etched in stone. It is the truth. It cannot be revoked, and it cannot be changed.
9. Why? Because where the devil is a liar and the father of all lies, it is impossible for God to lie.
10. Numbers 23:19 God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?
11. In other words, when God says it, you can take it to the bank.
12. When God's word makes a statement about who you are, you can take it to the bank. It is a truth that has been established and cannot be changed.

13. As it relates to our identity in Christ, it cannot be altered. You are who God says you are.
14. But so often, even though the word is very clear about our identity in Christ, we still struggle to accept the truth.
15. That's because truth alone isn't enough. Truth is truth and we never want to attempt to alter the truth, but truth without love still leaves us confused.
16. It is only when the truth is carried in the context of love does the truth become our reality.

### Love.

1. What makes the truth the truth is not just the truth, but God's love for us that proves it is true.
2. We talked last Sunday in 2 Corinthians chapter 5 about how Jesus took on our sin.
3. He who had no sin, became sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
4. It doesn't say that he gave us righteousness. It says so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.
5. Again, that points to our identity in Christ.
6. Before accepting the Love of Jesus Christ, our identity was that we were a sinner. We were lost. We were on our way to eternal punishment.
7. But because of the Love of Jesus who died for our sins, we are given a new identity. **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
8. It is through the love of Jesus that the truth of God's word about our identity is made real.
9. I love the pictures of God's love for us that the bible paints.
  - **1 John 4:9-10** This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. **10** This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.
  - **Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- **Zephaniah 3:17** The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."
- **Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
- **Ephesians 2:4-5** But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **5** made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.
- **Romans 8:37-39** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38** For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39** neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

10. Because of God's love for you. When the enemy comes to accuse you of being this or that or the other thing, you can remind him he is talking about the old you.
11. The new you. The you that has accepted the love of Jesus has a new identity in Christ Jesus.
12. So, it is the truth of God's word that reminds us of who we really are.
13. It is the love of Jesus that proves that God's word is true.
14. And then the final ingredient to transform the way we see ourselves is...

### **Time.**

1. To be clear, I am in no way trying to short-change God's miracle working power in our lives.
2. God can do anything, and I have seen him touch people instantly and set them free.
3. But if I have been believing a lie about my identity for any length of time, it is probably going to take time for my thinking to be transformed.
4. But by time I don't mean just passing the time. Watching the clock. Waiting for the way I see myself to change.
5. Time for the Holy Spirit to work in us and help cement in this new truth about our identity.
6. **Romans 5:5** And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

7. It is the power of the Holy Spirit that continually makes Gods love for us real and tangible.
8. **John 14:26** But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.
9. I love that. The Holy spirit has been given to us to teach us.
10. I envision a part of that teaching being this way. As we are reading God's word in our daily devotional time, the Holy Spirit prompts us, look there. Do you see that? That's a verse that tells you about your identity in Jesus Christ.
11. And then as we go about our day, busy with all the things we have to do, when one of those memories from our old life pops into our minds, or the enemy plants a lie right in the middle of our day, the Holy spirit is there to remind us.
12. No, no. That's not what God's word says about you. That's not the truth.
13. You are loved. You have been forgiven. That's the old you and this is the new you.

#### Conclusion:

1. And as the truth of God's word, mixes with the love of Jesus, as the Holy Spirit guides us in this new way of thinking. Then this transformation begins to take place.
2. **2 Corinthians 3:17-18** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
3. I'm pretty sure that is talking about a new identity in Christ.
4. This morning I am asking you to believe with me.
5. Not the lie of the enemy who continually tells us.
  - This will never change.
  - You will never change.
  - These circumstances will never change.
6. But instead to believe that the God who is entirely about change can change the way you see yourself.

7. To believe that the Holy Spirit can introduce you to the new you.
8. The real you. The you that is made in the image of God.
9. Ask the Lord to help us see ourselves as he sees us.
10. Pass out the elements of communion.
11. Salvation call.
12. As we celebrate the Lord's Supper today, we hold in our hands visible reminders of God's love for us and the truth of what he thinks about us.
13. He loves us, and we know he loves us because he died for us.