

"Protect Your Identity"

Ephesians 1:1-10 ESV
Tony Toth, Jan 19, 2025

Psalm 78:4 NLT "We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about his power and his mighty wonders."

I. OUR IDENTITY IS BEING STOLEN

- A. SATAN Is Trying To Distort Our Identity**
- B. The OPINION Of Others Has Too Much Power**
- C. HURT & PAIN Throw Us Into Confusion**
- D. SOCIAL MEDIA Tells Us To Compare**
- E. The LIES We Tell Ourselves**

II. WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST

Ephesians 1:1 "To the saints who ...are faithful in Christ Jesus:"

A. We Are CHOSEN

Ephesians 1:4 "even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world,"

1 Peter 2:9 "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

B. We Are LOVED

Ephesians 1:4b-6 "In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will..., with which he has blessed us in the Beloved."

Romans 8:38-39 "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

C. We Have Limitless VALUE

Ephesians 1:7a "In him we have redemption through his blood,"

1 Corinthians 7:23 NLT "God paid a high price for you, so don't be enslaved by the world."

D. We Are Completely FORGIVEN

Ephesians 1:7b "In him we have... the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,"

III. A PURPOSE FOUND IN CHRIST

Ephesians 1:9-10 "making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth."

A. ONLY I CAN Be Who God Designed Me To Be

B. Be A GOD Pleaser Not A PEOPLE Pleaser

THE NEXT FAITHFUL STEP

- 1. Finding Identity:** Discuss with family and friends this week how the culture and trends of our world can actually steal our identity instead of helping us find it.
- 2. Getting good at talking about this stuff.** Take time the week to practice, practice, practice... talking about our identity in Christ. The Next Generation needs us to boldly share the power, wonder, and glorious deeds of our great God.