

Identity Theft

- We will be teaching today from the bible.
- The bible is the only real truth.
- It is the inspired word of God.
- Our subject today is
- IDENTITY THEFT

Identity Theft

- I'm sure we have all heard of **identity theft**.
- This is when a criminal gets hold of your personal details and then proceeds to steal money from your bank account or credit card.
- He steals our true identity.
- When the crime is discovered there can be a long and difficult process to get your money back and to re-establish your good name and credit worthiness.

Identity Theft

- Now you may not be aware that **Spiritual Identity Theft** happened to every one of us!
- I'll say it again!
- **Spiritual Identity Theft** happened to every one of us!
- Let me explain.
- When God created mankind He created us in His image.
- [Genesis 1:27](#)
- So **God created** man in His own **image**, in the **image** *and* likeness of **God** He **created** him; male and female He **created** them.

Identity Theft

- Each of us was created wonderful and unique.
- God's intention was to look after us and provide for our every need.
- He desires a loving relationship with each of us and unbroken fellowship – so we can enjoy our relationship with Him..

Identity Theft

- However - When we were born we were born into a broken world which was suffering the consequences of sin.
- We didn't have a choice.
- We started off separated from God – **our identity was stolen** by the works of the adversary – the devil – Satan.

Identity Theft

- We found ourselves growing up in an **illegal state** – our true identity had already been stolen because the devil was our father.
- [John 8:44](#)
- You are of your father the devil, and it is your will to practice the desires which are characteristic of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the **truth** because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks what is **natural** to him, for he is a liar and the father of lies and half-truths.

Identity Theft

- Sin was natural for us.
- Sin is failure to do things God's way.
- Sin separates us from God.
- [Romans 3:23](#)
- since **all have sinned** and *continually* fall short of the glory of God

Identity Theft

- We were victims of the evil in the world.
- **Our true identity was denied us.**
- The sins of previous generations were visited upon us.
- [Numbers 14:18](#)
- 'The Lord is slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness, forgiving wickedness and transgression; but He will by no means clear the guilty, visiting, (that's avenging), the wickedness and guilt of the fathers on the children, to the third and fourth generations, that is, calling the children to account for the sins of their fathers.'

Identity Theft

- As a consequence of sinful behaviour we have to endure curses (which is punishment administered by Satan and his demons). These curses took the form of sickness and infirmity, poverty and lack, mental anguish, fears, idolatry, self centredness, greed and an indifferent regard for our fellow man – and much more.
- We were separated from our creator, who is Holy.
- But God had a plan to return us into relationship with Himself for all eternity and to bless us abundantly with our true identity.

Identity Theft

- We find that plan in **John 3:16**
- “**For God so greatly loved** *and* dearly prized **the world**, that He even gave His One and only begotten **Son**, so that **whoever believes and trusts in Him as Savior** shall not perish, but have eternal life.
- Note: not just whoever **believes in Him** BUT also **whoever TRUSTS in Him as saviour**.

Identity Theft

- Jesus paid a price we couldn't pay by allowing Himself to be crucified; He died and rose again thereby eliminating the ultimate punishment for our sin – that's death itself – which is **eternal separation from our creator**.
- Jesus defeated Satan once and for all.
- By His sacrifice He made a way for us to come back into relationship with our heavenly Father.

Identity Theft

- For those of us who have accepted the substitute sacrifice of Jesus as full payment for our sin.
- For those who invite Him into their hearts as Lord.
- For those who desire to be His disciples and live to love and serve Him.
- There is a **New Identity** as a free gift from God.

Identity Theft

- Now we are Spiritually alive, **a new creation**, no longer I that live but Christ lives in me, we are a brand new species of man (woman), perfect in Spirit.
- We are **Born Again**.
- **Galatians 2:20**
I have been crucified with **Christ** - that is, **in** Him I have shared His crucifixion; it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**. The *life* I now live **in** the body **I live by faith - by adhering to, relying on, and completely trusting in the Son of God**, who loved **me** and gave Himself up for **me**.

Identity Theft

Our natural tendency to sin is now broken.

- [1 John 3:9](#)
- No one who is **born** of God deliberately, knowingly, and habitually practices **sin**, because God's seed, His principle of life, the essence of His righteous character remains permanently **in** him who is **born** again—who is reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose; and he who is **born** again cannot *habitually* live a life characterized by **sin**, because he is **born** of God *and* longs to please Him.

Identity Theft

- When we accept Jesus, God changes our identity instantly and makes us Spiritually alive. He lives in us – Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
- [Colossians 2:9](#)
- For in Him all the fullness of Deity (the **Godhead**) dwells in bodily form completely expressing the divine essence of God.
- This is not a process. **It is an instant new legal identity.**

Identity Theft

- We are free – no longer slaves to unrighteousness and no longer subject to a false identity.
- [Romans 3:22](#)
- This **righteousness** of God comes through faith in Jesus Christ for all those [Jew or Gentile] who **believe and trust in Him** and acknowledge Him as God's Son.
- Our new identity gives us Dominion, Power and authority.

Identity Theft

- – our desire now is to live in agreement with the word of God – as true believers.
- There must be an end of our carnality and an end to being lovers of the world.
- [1 John 2:16](#)
- For all that is in the world—the lust *and* sensual craving of the flesh and the lust *and* longing of the eyes and the boastful **pride of life** [pretentious confidence in one's resources or in the stability of earthly things]—these do not come from the Father, but are from the world.

Identity Theft

- **John 15**
19: If you belonged to the **world**, the **world** would love you as its own *and* would treat you with affection. But **you are not of the world**, you no longer belong to it, but I have chosen you out of the **world**. And because of this the **world** hates you.
- We have a **new identity** – we no longer belong to the world.

Identity Theft

- When we accepted Jesus as Lord we entered into a new Covenant – a contract – with God.
- God could sovereignly heal and deliver everybody BUT he has chosen to involve us and limit Himself to doing it through us, His Sons and Daughters.
- We have a **new purposeful identity** as Sons and Daughters of the Living God.
- Glory to God!

Identity Theft

- Jesus showed us the way when He demonstrated to His disciples how to set people free.
- We are to be His hands and His voice to the broken and needy.
- He wants to work through us to reveal His kingdom.

Identity Theft

- This is not passive ritualistic religious practice – a Christian style life – the outward form of godliness but lacking the real power
- NO!
- This is a living, dynamic, hands on FULL GOSPEL where we express the love and compassion of our God.
- That's who we are!

Identity Theft

- Now we have the Mind of Christ.
- [1 Corinthians 2:16](#)
- For WHO HAS KNOWN THE **MIND** *and* PURPOSES OF THE LORD, SO AS TO INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the **mind of Christ** to be guided by His thoughts and purposes.
- We are responsible to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in the renewal of our minds.
- When the devil attacks us in our thought life and says things like –
 - You're no good
 - You'll never amount to anything , you're useless.
 - Etc
 - We are to resist him.

Identity Theft

- James 4
- 7: So submit to **the** authority of God. **Resist the devil**, stand firm against him and he will flee from you.
- We say NO to the devils lies! – we say **that's not who I am**
- I can do all things.
- I have a **new identity** and my life is hidden with Christ in GOD – **that's who I am.**
- Now I am a SON (a DAUGHTER) of the LIVING GOD.

Identity Theft

- Now we are **potentially** free from every sickness and disease. – to enjoy **divine health**.
- [1 Peter 2:24](#)
- He personally carried our sins in His body on the cross, willingly offering Himself on it, as on an altar of sacrifice, so that we might die to sin, becoming immune from the penalty and power of sin and live for righteousness; for by His wounds you, **who believe**, have been **healed**.

Identity Theft

- Notice what it says here !
- you **who believe - have been healed.**
- **You who believe**
- **Have been healed**
- Not **will be healed – not maybe**
- We **have** been healed
- It's done – so believe and look forward positively to its manifestation.
- Now start thanking God for what Jesus has done and attain to freedom and to your new identity in Christ.

Identity Theft

- What we are talking about here is a brand new identity with total victory over the devil and over Powers and Principalities and the world.
- We are part of the Body of Christ – His Church.
- Our real identity that God intended before we were in our mothers womb is now revealed.

Identity Theft

- Let us pray
- Thank you Lord Jesus for dying for me. I now live to bring glory to you. You have set me free. I am a new man (woman). I choose life.
- I have a new identity. I have a new legal status. I reign as a priest to my King – Jesus Christ – Lord of Lords – King of all Kings – the name above all names. Glory to God. Amen.