

MESSAGE 1: DON'T LET ANYONE STEAL YOUR IDENTITY

Parts 1-4

“In Christ” = 89 times in New Testament “In Him” = 79 times

“It is IN CHRIST that we find out who we are and what we are living for.”
Ephesians 1:11 (Mes)

WHO ARE YOU ‘IN CHRIST’?

1. IN CHRIST, _____

“IN CHRIST, God CHOSE us before the world was made so that we would be his holy people. Because of his LOVE, God had already decided to make us his own children through Jesus Christ. That was what he wanted and what pleased him. Ephesians 1:4-5 (NCV)

“You have been CHOSEN by God himself!” 1 Peter 2:9 (LB)

“I am certain that nothing can separate us from GOD'S LOVE—not life nor death, not angels or demons, not the present or the future, not powers above or below. Nothing in all creation can ever separate us from God's love for us IN CHRIST JESUS our Lord!” Rom. 8:38-39 (CEV)

“God alone made it possible for you to be IN CHRIST JESUS... He is the one who made us ACCEPTABLE to God.” 1 Cor. 1:30 (NLT)

2. IN CHRIST, _____

“God says, ‘You are precious to me.’” Isaiah 43:4 (TEV)

“God said, ‘Let us make man in our image. In our likeness... So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.’” Genesis 1:26 (NIV)

“You were rescued from the useless way of life that you learned... But you weren’t ransomed by silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ.” 1 Peter 1:18 (CEV)

“You have been bought and paid for by Christ, so you belong to him...” 1 Corinthians 7:23 (LB)

3. IN CHRIST, _____

“We are each God's masterpiece. He created us IN CHRIST JESUS, to do the good things he planned in advance for us to do with our lives.” Ephesians. 2:10 (NLT/NCV)

“IN CHRIST there is all of God in a human body; so you have everything when you have Christ! And you are FILLED WITH GOD through your union with Christ, and He HAS authority over every other power.” Colossians 2:9-10 (LB)

“The capacity we have comes from God; it is he who made us capable of serving the new covenant...” 2 Corinthians 3:5-6 (TEV)

“I have strength for all things IN CHRIST who empowers me. I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient IN CHRIST'S sufficiency.” Philippians 4:13 (Amp)

4. IN CHRIST, _____

“There is now no condemnation for those who are IN CHRIST JESUS.”
Romans 8:1 (NIV)

“I am the God who forgives your sins, and I do this because of who I am. I will not hold your sins against you.” Isaiah 43:25 (TEV)

“IN CHRIST we are set free by the blood of his death, and so we have forgiveness of sins. How rich is God's grace which he has given to us so fully and freely!” Ephesians 1:7 (NCV)

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as IN CHRIST, God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

“When anyone is IN CHRIST, it is a whole new world. The old things are gone; suddenly, everything is new!” 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ETRV)

MESSAGE 2: FORMING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Parts 1-3

God said "It is not good for man to be alone!" Genesis 2:18

TYPES OF FRIENDSHIPS

- Casual Friends can be the result of _____
- But Close Friends should be the result of _____

Fact: The closer I am to a person, the greater they influence my life.
So, I need to CHOOSE my closest friends wisely.

"A righteous person is cautious in friendship, (because) the ways of evil people can lead them to do wrong." Prov. 12:26 (NIV)

WHO NOT TO CHOOSE AS A CLOSE FRIEND

God says some people you should avoid: (a partial list)

1. People who _____
"Any fool can start arguments; the honorable thing is to stay out of them."
Prov. 20:3 (TEV)
2. People who _____
"Stay away from gossips- they can't keep a secret and they tell everything."
Prov. 20:19 (CEV)
3. People who _____
"Flattery is a trap; evil people get caught in it, but good people avoid it and are free."
Prov. 29:5
4. People who _____
"Don't make friends with a hot-tempered person. Don't associate with anyone easily angered, or you'll learn to be like them and not able to change." Prov. 22:24-25
5. People who _____ Prov. 1:13-15
6. Believers who _____ 1 Cor. 5:9-11

QUALITIES TO LOOK FOR IN YOUR CORE FRIENDS

1. Choose friends who _____
"Encourage one another and build each other up." 1 Thess. 5:11
2. Choose friends who _____
"A friend loves you ALL the time, like a brother born to help in trouble." Prov. 17:17

3. Choose friends who _____
“If you keep company with wise friends, you’ll become wise. But if you make friends with foolish people, your life will fall to pieces.” Prov. 13:20

FACTORS FOR FORMING FRIENDSHIPS

1. BE CHEERFUL: _____
“A cheerful look brings joy to the heart.” Prov. 15:30 (NLT)
“The Lord is pleased with friendly words.” Prov. 15:26 (TEV)
2. BE COMFORTABLE: _____
Jesus: “The second greatest command is this: ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself!’” Matt. 22:39 (NCV)

“We refuse to wear masks and play games. We don’t maneuver and manipulate behind the scenes.” 2 Cor. 4:2 (Mes)
3. BE CONVERSATIONAL: _____
“Don’t just think about your own affairs, but BE INTERESTED in others and in what they are doing.” Phil. 2:4 (LB)
4. BE CONSIDERATE: _____
“Let everyone be QUICK TO LISTEN and slow to speak...” James 1:19
“Rejoice with those who rejoice. Weep with those who weep.” Rom.12:15
5. BE CONSISTENT: _____
“There are ‘friends’ who pretend to be friends, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” Prov. 18:24 (LB)

“A despairing man should have the devotion of his friends, even though he forsakes the fear of the Almighty.” Job 6:14 (NIV)
6. BE CONFIDENTIAL: _____
“... a true friend will keep a secret.” Prov. 11:13 (CEV)

“No one who gossips can be trusted ... but you can put your confidence in someone who is trustworthy.” Prov. 11:13 (TEV)
7. BE CANDID: _____
“An honest answer is a sign of true friendship.” Prov. 24:26 (TEV)
8. BE CHRISTLIKE: _____
“Accept each other, just as Christ accepted you.” Rom. 15:7

MESSAGE 3: CREATING LIFE SHAPING CONVERSATIONS

Parts 1-3

How to L.I.S.T.E.N. so that kids will speak up
& How to S.P.E.A.K. so that kids will listen!

L_____

"Jesus felt genuine love for the man as he looked straight at him." Mark 10:21

"God has given us eyes to SEE with and ears to LISTEN with." Prov. 20:12 (TEV)

I_____

"When Job's three close friends heard of the tragedy Job had suffered, they got together and traveled from their homes to comfort and console him... Then they sat on the ground with Job silently for seven days and nights. And no one said a word, for they saw that his suffering was too great for words." John 2:11-13 (NLT)

S_____

"Anyone who answers quickly without listening first is both foolish and insulting." Prov. 18:13

"Mary fell at Jesus' feet and cried out, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, along with many others, he was deeply moved. 'Where have you buried his body?' he asked. 'Come and see, Lord' they replied. Jesus wept. Then the people said, "Look how deeply he loved him!"
John 11:32-36

T_____

"...Be sympathetic, loving each other like family, and be kind and humble." 1 Peter 3:8

"... we must bear the 'burden' of being considerate of the doubts and fears of others ... " Let's please the other fellow, not ourselves, and do what is for his good and thus build him up in the Lord." Rom. 15:2 (LB)

E_____

"People's thoughts are like water in a deep well, but someone with insight can draw them out." Prov. 20:5 (TEV)

N_____

"What a shame--yes, how stupid!--to decide before knowing the facts!... A person with understanding gets the facts and the wise person listens to learn more." Prov.18:13+15 (LB/NCV)

HOW TO S.P.E.A.K. SO THAT OTHER LISTEN TO YOU

S

“There is a time to be silent and there is a time to speak.” Eccl. 3:7 (NCV)

“There’s a right time and a right way for everything, even though, unfortunately, we miss it for the most part.” Eccl. 8:6 (Mes)

P

“Jesus said, ‘I have not spoken on my own power. Instead, the Father who sent me told me what I should say AND how I should say it.’” John 12:49 (GW)

“Intelligent people think before they speak; then what they say is more persuasive.” Prov.16:23 (TEV)

“Everything you say should be kind and well thought out so that you know how to answer everyone.” Col. 4:6 (GW)

E

"Speak... only what is helpful for building others up, according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." Eph. 4:29 (NIV)

A

“When wise people speak, they make knowledge attractive.” Prov. 15:2 (TEV)

"A mature person is known for his understanding. The more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is." Prov. 16:21 (TEV)

“We have this HOPE as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure!” Heb.6:19 (NIV)

K

“Those who are sure of themselves do not talk all the time, and people who STAY CALM have real insight.” Prov. 17:27 (TEV)

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.” James 1:19 (NIV)

MESSAGE 4: BEING A DISCIPLE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Parts 1-4

THE SPIRITUAL HAZARDS OF DIGITAL TOOLS

(smart phones, iPads, laptops, Internet devices, etc.)

1. _____
"Be careful how you live. Don't live foolishly, instead live as wise people, making every minute count, because these are evil times." Eph. 5:15-16

2. _____
"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think." Rom. 12:2a (NLT)

3. _____
"Never get involved in foolish controversies, useless arguments, disputes about your personal pedigree, or fights over interpreting God's Law. All of these are useless and do not help anyone." Titus 3:9

"You can be sure that on the Judgment Day you will have to give account to God of every careless word you have ever spoken." Matt. 12:36 (TEV)

4. _____
Jesus: "Be careful! Don't do your acts of righteousness publicly to be admired by others. If you do, you will lose your reward from your Father in heaven." Matt. 6:1 (NIV)

5. _____
"Am I trying to win the approval of people or the approval of God? Am I trying to be popular people-pleaser? No! If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ." Gal. 1:10

6. _____
"Mary sat quietly at Jesus' feet listening to everything he said. But Martha was distracted by all she had to do. She said, 'Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to help me!' 'Martha, Martha' the Lord said, 'you are worried and too distracted by many things, but really there only one thing that is truly important and Mary CHOSE it." Luke 10:40-42

"So whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." 1 Cor. 10:31

HOW CAN I USE MY SMART PHONE FOR GOD'S GLORY?
(Purpose Driven Technology!)

1. _____
“...true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth.”
“All day long I put my hope in you.” Psalm 25:5 (NLT)
“Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income.” Pr. 3:9 (LB)

2. _____
“Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.” Rom. 12:10 (NLT)
“Encourage each other and give each other strength.” 1 Thes. 5:11 (NCV)

3. _____
“Grow in spiritual strength and become better acquainted with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18 (LB)
“Keep me from looking at worthless things. Let me live by your Word.” 119:37 (NCV)

4. _____
“What can I GIVE BACK to God for the blessings he's poured out on me?” Ps. 116:12 (Mes)

5. _____
“Through Christ, God has made peace between us and himself, and He gave us the work of telling everyone about the peace we can have with Him... So we have been sent to speak for Christ!” 2 Cor. 5:18,20 (NCV)
“Publish God's glorious deeds among every nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things he does!” 1 Chron. 16:24 (NLT)

MESSAGE 5: WHEN YOU'RE HARASSED & BULLIED

Parts 1-2

Jesus: "I've told you all this so in that trusting me, you will be unshakable and at peace. In this godless world you will experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world." John 16:33 (MeS)

Jesus :“The world would love you if you belonged to it, but you don't. I chose you to come out of the world, and so it hates you. Remember, a servant is not greater than the master. Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you too.” John 15:19-20 (NLT)

HOW TO RESPOND TO HARASSMENT

1. RECOGNIZE _____

“We are not fighting against human beings, but against wicked spiritual forces...” Eph. 6:12 (TEV)

2. REMEMBER _____

“You, dear children, are from God and you have overcome the world, because the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world!” 1 John 4:4

“When I am afraid, I put my trust in you O God and I praise your word! I trust in you God, so why should I be afraid? What can mere mortals do to me?” Psalm. 56:3-4 (NLT)

3. REFUSE _____

“If someone has done you wrong, NEVER pay back evil with evil. Instead try to do what everyone considers to be good. Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody. Never take revenge, my friends, but instead let God's anger do it. For the scripture says, "I will avenge you and, I will pay them back, says the Lord." Romans 12:17-19

4. RESPOND _____

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:21

“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” Matt. 5:44

5. REFOCUS _____

“If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, because it means God's Spirit rests on you.”
1 Peter 4:14

- It means God's Spirit CAN BE SEEN IN ME

"The apostles were full of joy that God considered them worthy to suffer disgrace for Jesus' name." Acts 5:41

- It means _____

"These troubles...won't last very long. Yet this short time of distress will result in God's richest blessing upon us forever and ever!" 2 Cor. 4:17 (LB)

- It means _____

6. REMEMBER _____

Jesus: "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Matt. 5:11-12

"Since we are God's children...if we share Christ's suffering, we will also share in his glory!" Romans 8:17 (TEV)

7. REMAIN _____

"So those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good." 1 Peter 4:19

"Everyone who wants to live as God desires, in Christ Jesus, will be hurt." 2 Tim. 3:12 (NCV)

Jesus: "Anyone who has given up houses, or lost brothers or sisters or father or mother or children, or lost property for my sake, will receive back a hundred times as much in return and will have eternal life." Matt. 19:29

Jesus: "If you are ashamed of me and my commands in this godless and sinful generation, I'll be ashamed of you when I come back in glory with the holy angels." Mark 8:38 (TEV)

"But for those who declare publicly that they belong to me, I will do the same for them before my Father in heaven!" Matt. 10:32 (TEV)