

IDENTITY CRISIS

Our Worth and Value is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ In our key scripture, the apostle Paul has been writing to the Corinthians in regard to sexual activities, marriage and divorce because of issues they were facing. They were in need of Paul's guidance.
- ❖ In verses 17-24, Paul repeats a certain principle to encourage the Corinthian church not to be preoccupied with changing their status: "Each of you remain as you were, when God called you" (1 Cor. 7:20).
- ❖ It does not mean that if you were a thief, you should continue being a thief. The Bible says that we should "steal no more" and work instead (Ephesians 4:8). Jesus said to the woman caught in adultery, "Go, and sin no more" (John 8:11).
- ❖ Paul is encouraging us to live out our faith and to fulfill our calling. Whatever category you find yourself in, do the best you can. Any change that occurs in your status should be orchestrated and led by God.
- ❖ Do not be hasty to change your status, because "it is God who works in you to will and to do of His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13 KJV). Let each remain in that condition he was called.
- ❖ God has a plan for you. God has a plan for your life. He knows the handicaps in your life. He knows the things that you have or don't have, the things that you want and things that He does not want you to have. Whatever your state may be, know that God wants the best for your life.
- ❖ Marriage should not be the goal of life; Christ is. If you are single, never say you are in a waiting period. What are you waiting for? If you are waiting, then you may not become what or who God wants you to be.
- ❖ In 1 Cor 7:7, Paul said singleness is a gift. Singleness is not as strange as people make it out to be. Whether married or single, each is a gift from the Lord. So, unwrap the gift. Use it to the glory of God.
- ❖ Don't waste your time waiting when God has given you potentials, abilities and talents to do great things in His kingdom.
- ❖ Let's look at 1 Corinthians 7:8-9. After reading verse 9, it would seem to many that marriage is the alternative to maintaining sexual purity. Some would even want to use this verse as an excuse for sexual failure.
- ❖ Nobody has the gift of sexual immorality, but self-control is a fruit of the Spirit. Our bodies are meant to be honourable to the Lord.
- ❖ Paul goes further into this topic in 1 Corinthians 6:12-17; 10:13 and 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7. In summary, Paul is saying that God has His eyes on you and your worth and value is in Him.
- ❖ Here are ten guidelines that will help you fight sexual immorality, so you can live a life of purity before God. They are all intended to preserve your freedom from any enslavement but one, slavery to God:

KEY SCRIPTURE:

1 Corinthians 7:7, 17-24 (AMP)

- I. Do not seek regular sexual gratification through masturbation.
 - II. Do not seek sexual gratification through touching/being touched by another person even if you keep it short of sexual intimacy.
 - III. Avoid unnecessary sexual stimulation.
 - IV. When the stimulation comes and the sexual desire rises, perform a very conscious act of transfer onto Christ (acknowledge the desire before God and give it over to Him).
 - V. Pray. Pray that God will give you an ever-increasing desire to know, love and obey Him.
 - VI. Bathe your mind in the Word of God every day; truth sanctifies.
 - VII. Keep yourself busy (get involved in ministry inside the church, in your community).
 - VIII. Don't spend too much time alone; let your friends hold you accountable for purity.
 - IX. Strive to think of all people, especially people of the opposite sex, in view of eternity (it is not easy to sexually fantasize about a person if you think about the eternal torment they may suffer in hell due to their unbelief).
 - X. Resolve to seek the Kingdom first.
- ❖ Know who you are in Christ. Your worth and value is wrapped up in Christ.
 - ❖ If I don't believe God loves me unconditionally, then I will use the world's standard to measure myself (education, job, car, marital status, etc.).
 - ❖ Our worth and value is in Christ. When we know who we are in Christ, then we have moved from identity crisis to identity achievement.
 - ❖ Don't fall into the trap of listening to what society or others think is best for you. When God is our central focus, then we will find deeper meaning in our lives.
 - ❖ Your worth and value is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Has there ever been an instance when you questioned your worth (value) in Christ? What caused you to do so (i.e. a situation you were going through, words of other people, etc.)?
2. When you questioned your value, what were the prevalent thoughts going through your mind? Were they positive/negative? Why?
3. What does the Bible have to say about your value (worth) to God? What words would you say to someone who was going through an identity crisis?

PRAYER TIME

My worth and value is in Christ Jesus my Lord!

WEEK OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2020

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

👉 (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE
WORD

Start-up: Have you ever pretended or tried to be like someone else? What made you want to imitate this person?