

## Session 4 identity Bible Study

The first three sessions laid out for us the struggle some of us have with our identities in this sinful world. We have seen the struggle manifest in many ways but specifically in the life issues of transgenderism, premarital sex, and same-sex attraction. Since June is considered PRIDE celebration month by our culture, we have been focusing on these issues. In the fourth and last session of this study, we will look more deeply into the Christian identity and how to reclaim chastity in our lives as we confess Christ to our neighbors. We will discuss what it means to have a clear conscience. We will also spend some time discussing the difference between tolerance and speaking the truth in love.

1. This study is focusing on identity. Let's discuss what it means to identify as a Christian.
  - Transformed by rebirth
    - John 3:5-6**
    - Isaiah 55:11**
    - Mark 16:16**
    - Acts 2:38**Summarize how you are transformed by Baptism.
  - Joined with Christ in death and resurrection
    - Romans 6:4**
    - Galatians 2:20**
    - 2 Corinthians 5:17**
    - 1 Peter 1:3**Summarize how you are joined with Christ in His death and resurrection.
  - New genealogy
    - Romans 8:15-17**
    - John 20:17**
    - Matthew 28:10**Summarize how Baptism gives you a new genealogy.
2. What does it look like to live out our Christian identity day to day?
  - How do the ten commandments help us to live day to day?
  - What does the Lord's Prayer teach us about how to live?
  - How does the Apostle's Creed help us in our daily life?
  - How do all of the above show us the gift of orderly life God has given us?
3. How can we reclaim chastity in our daily living and show others that we are set apart from the world? How can we deal with our own struggles with sexual sins and identity and confess the truth to our hurting neighbors who are confused about their identity?
  - Confess and receive forgiveness
    - Proverbs 28:13**
    - James 5:16**
    - 1 John 1:9**
    - Psalms 32:5**

Summarize what these verses say about confessing sins.

Explain how hearing the words of absolution from a pastor or a friend can affect you.

- Forgive as we have been forgiven

**Matthew 18:21-35**

**Luke 15:11-32**

**Mark 9:23b**

**Psalm 51**

Why is it hard to accept the free grace that God has given us through Christ?

How will the reception of this gift free us to be able to love and forgive those who do us wrong?

- Live with a clean conscience

**1 Timothy 3:9**

**2 Timothy 1:3**

**Ezekiel 11:14**

**1 John 3:16-21**

**Romans 8:1**

How can our reception of God's forgiveness help us to live the new lives we have in Christ with a clear conscience?

€ Pray

**Psalm 4:1, 6:9, 54:2**

**Psalm 50:15**

**Isaiah 65:24**

**1 John 5:14**

**Philippians 4:6**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

**Romans 8:26-27**

What does God promise about prayer?

Summarize how prayer can be helpful in reclaiming our chastity and helping our neighbors as we live out our Christian identities.

- Confess the faith to others

**Psalm 19:1**

**Psalm 96:3**

**Psalm 145:4**

**Ephesians 2:10**

**1 Corinthians 7:17**

**Philippians 1:6**

## **Matthew 10:16-17**

How can God's Word help us to become stewards, as it were, of His truth and inspire us to share it with others around us?

How is being aware of false teaching not the same as loving and spending time with unbelievers?

- Set an example: Live sacrificially

**Romans 8:1-11**

**Romans 13:14**

**1 Peter 2**

**Colossians 3:1-11**

As parents, grandparents, married, single, divorced, or whatever your vocation in life regardless of your past mistakes, how can living a chaste life now show others that we love them regardless of their mistakes?

- Show compassion: Speak the truth in love

**Colossians 3:12-14**

**1 Peter 3:8**

**Ephesians 4:32**

**Matthew 7:1-6**

**Proverbs 19:11**

**1 Corinthians 10:23-30**

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

How do we guard against false teaching yet still love those who abide by it?

What does it look like to be tolerant as opposed to speaking the truth in love?

How can Sue and John manage the pain they have from the aftermath of their daughter's choices?

Do you think Sue should accept her daughter's "marriage" and keep the peace in the family? Why or why not?

- **Read Luke 14:26.** How do you think we are to interpret this Scripture?

**Summary:** In this study we have tackled the issue of our identities in relation to our culture and to our Lutheran Christian worldview. We have studied it by examining the relationship we have with our Creator, the Triune God. We have been created by the Father, redeemed by the Son, Jesus Christ, and called and sanctified by the Holy Spirit. We have been given the gift of life through these means. The devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh have worked hard to bring this all to ruin. In this month of June when so many strangely celebrate their mistaken, self-

created identities in the name of PRIDE, we need to be even more focused on the fact that we are called to proclaim the life-affirming message of Scripture. We need to understand the struggle many are facing and help them to overcome their conflict by living life the way God intends us to live and sharing that truth with them. Some of our dearest friends and family members may have been affected by this movement, and even we ourselves may have been affected by it. My sincere prayer is that this study will help those who need to hear this truth and that God's Word will change hearts and bring them out of the darkness of death and into the bright light of His life.

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord and Savior, we give thanks to You for fighting the good fight inside of us against all that is in opposition to God our Father. May Your Spirit help us to daily crucify our flesh, even when it hurts. Let us know the joy and freedom that is in our hearts when Your Spirit blows in us. When we feel weak and doubt, when we struggle with our desires and lust to seek intimacy outside of Your order and design, fill us with Your presence so we always know to whom we belong and comfort us with the knowledge that You are with us always. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Departing Hymn: **"O Christ, Our Hope, Our Hearts' Desire"** LSB 553