



Shiloh Messenger

June 2017

Identity, How We View Ourselves (pt.5)

Our Eschatological Identity

As we begin to grow in our identity, we begin to start to differentiate between what goes on around us and who we are. We stop taking circumstances as the definition of who we are or who God is and begin to learn to see our circumstance as an opportunity to demonstrate who God is and who we are instead.

The truth is that many of us look to our circumstances to see who God is far more than we care to admit. Letting our circumstances define the nature of God is always betrayed by asking the question “Why this, God?” or “Why me, God?” Whenever we cross the bridge to the question “why,” we’ve let the circumstances define who God is.

This process is actually a major theme of the book of Job. The question underlying the book of Job is found in some of its first verses:

*And the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?” Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put both a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has and he will curse you to your face.” **Job 1:8-11***

The dialogue between God and Satan basically amounts to Satan asserting that Job only thinks God is good because the circumstances of his life have been good, and that if his circumstances go poorly, he won’t think God is good anymore. The question the reader is asking throughout the whole book of Job is whether Job has the ability to keep believing in God’s goodness regardless of his life situation.

Likewise, as the Lord shapes our identity within us, we have a deeper and fuller understanding of the truth that has been spoken about us. That understanding starts to sink down into the deep places in us, and our confidence in that truth begins to grow. In that process, our perspective starts to shift, and we begin to understand that our circumstances are the stage on which we can demonstrate the reality of our relationship with God. Either you look to the circumstances to define to you who God is, or you look at your circumstances as an opportunity to illustrate who God is to you. The latter is faith in action.

The truth is that our identity has already been established. There isn’t any question of who we’ll become:

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. **Romans 8:28-29***

*...even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will. **Ephesians 1:4-5***

Notice both of these passages talk about us being predestined to become sons. God has already set forth for you a destiny, and that destiny is to grow into an identity as a son of God. Because of that, we can trust that all things in our life will work towards that. Whether they are good or bad, we have an identity that is our destiny, which cannot be derailed.

In a sense, then, who we are is a picture much like the picture discussed when we talked about The Kingdom of God. There is an eschatological identity that God has already established in front of us, and that identity is breaking into the present and establishing our current identity. Our identity is both in the now and what is to come! It is a Glorious Inheritance that has been purchased for us by Christ Jesus.

This is one of the great promises of the New Testament. Every promise for us is already ours in Christ, but not only that, they have growing momentum!

*For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in Him it is always Yes. For all the promises of God and their Yes in Him. That is why it is through Him that we utter our Amen to God for His glory. And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put His seal on us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. **2 Corinthians 1:19-22***

New Dorm to House More Men

Over the past couple of years we have had a waiting list for potential students. With a waiting list comes consequences. Many men have to wait for 90 days & we often lose them after that period. We do have a referral list of other ministries, but most of them insist upon being put on our waiting list. They tell us it is our success in ministry to others they know or it is them visiting our website that they choose to wait. The Lord spoke to me last year and told me He wanted another Dorm built. We complied and began construction last fall. We now have a 45 by 75 Ft. exterior building, that needs completion on the inside. This includes, Sheet Rock & mud, Paint, Insulation, & Ceiling Tile, 2 five ton Air Conditioning Units, Stained Concrete flooring, Showers and Plumbing (toilets, faucets, shower heads & valves).

The approximate cost remaining for completing the Dormitory is \$27,000.00. We ask that you pray about what The Lord would have you do to help us in restoring His most valuable and precious asset, "People." With your financial gift, it will make possible for us to quickly complete the Dormitory project, so we can mentor more broken men, for The Glory of Christ!!!!!!

Thank you again, to everyone who co-labors with us in reconciling men with God, so restoration can begin.

We love you,

Rocky & Debbie Fondren

(Shiloh Ministries is recognized by the IRS as a 501c3 charitable organization. All financial gifts are tax deductible at the end of the year)

Graduates Testimony

My name is Anthony Woods. For most of my life, I was raised around Oakdale, Louisiana. At a young age, my mother and father divorced and I was raised by my mother. I was then abused by a man who my mother was living with for a few years. I used the abuse as an excuse to start drinking and smoking marijuana. Later on, that opened up a gateway to cocaine, pills, and meth addiction. My addiction became so bad to where it almost caused me to kill my daughters and me in a meth-raged car chase running from the police. I heard the voice of God for the first time in my life when I was in jail, and He told me to bail out and go to Shiloh. Shiloh is the best thing that ever happened to me. My first three months there is when God saved, forgave, and healed me from all my addictions. God converted the addiction I had to drugs into an addiction to Jesus Christ. For once in my life, I am right where my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has called me to be! Had it not been for Pastor Rocky and Sister Debbie, I would probably be dead or in prison for the rest of my life. Shiloh is God-ordained and if you are struggling with addiction, this is the place for redemption and salvation. They helped me learn to walk, sit, and stand on the Word of God, because the Bible is the plumb line to God. Shiloh helped me realize that all of the abuse, drugs, and fights were not my problem. My biggest problem was not forgiving myself. I thank God for the blood of Jesus that washed me white as snow, and healed me from everything. You see, "God is more eager to answer than we are to ask," (Jeremiah 33:3). Thanks again to everyone who supports Shiloh Ministries, it is His Heart to heal & restore men like me. Blessings & love, Anthony!



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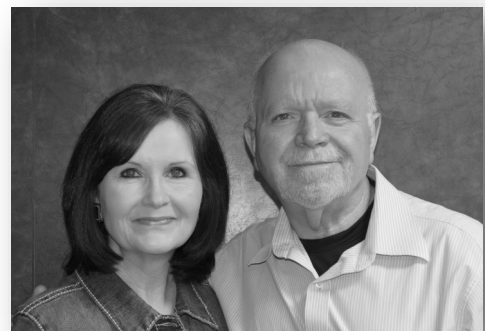
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**Rocky & Debbie Fondren
Founders & Sr. Leaders, Shiloh Ministries**