

Transformed living

Overcoming Our Identity Crisis - Part I

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. – II Corinthians 5:17-19-195:17-19

"For the church in the west to come alive, it needs to resolve its identity crisis, to stand on the truth, to renew its vision... and more than anything else, it need to recover the fear of the Lord."

Chuck Colson

The biggest struggle for most Christians is that they do not know who they are in Christ.

QUESTION: Where did this identity crisis start?

ANSWER: In the Garden of Eden.

In the Garden God met all the needs of Adam and Eve:

1. **PHYSICAL** needs.

Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so. –Genesis 1:29-30

They were completely cared for.

2. **SPIRITUA** needs.

the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. – Genesis 2:7

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. – Genesis 1:27

3. The need of **SIGNIFICANCE** was met.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." – Genesis 1:26

4. The need of **LONELINESS** was met.

The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame – Genesis 2:25

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh – Genesis 2:24

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." – Genesis 2:18

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' or she was taken out of man." – Genesis 2:23

What happen as the result of the fall of man.

Spiritual **death**.

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned — Romans 5:12

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 6:23

So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. – Genesis 3:23-24

Spiritual death brings:

a. rejection b. guilt and shame c. weakness & helplessness

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. – Ephesians 4:17-19

Christ restores what was lost in the Garden.

IN CHRIST I AM ACCEPTED

Pastor Barden Gerace, Jr.

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Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. – Romans 5:1-2

For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. – Romans 5:17