



November 5, 2017
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Identity Theft

Lesson One • 1Corinthians 15:3-11

Pickpocketed by the Past

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2Corinthians 5:17 NIV

For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:3 NIV

Identity Theft

A LIE believed as truth will affect you as if it were TRUE.

"When he [the Devil] tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies." ~Jesus, John 8:44 CSB

Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour. 1Peter 5:8 CSB

Pickpocketed by the Past

Beware of the lie: "I am what I HAVE BEEN THROUGH."

Principles for Redeeming the Past

1. Start with the GOSPEL of Jesus Christ!

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. 1Corinthians 15:3-4

2. Be HONEST about Your Past!

For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 1Corinthians 15:9

3. Cover Your Past with the GRACE of God!

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain... 1Corinthians 15:10

4. DEPEND On the Grace of God Daily!

...but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. 1Corinthians 15:10

How God's Grace Impacts the Past

- Your past does not have to DEFINE you when you are redeemed by God's grace.
- Your past can be used to DECLARE the beauty and power of God's grace.

Are You Redeemed by God's Grace in the Gospel?

Our past is only a symptom of a deeper problem: a sinful heart. Therefore, our real need is a new heart through faith in Jesus Christ.

Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed. 1Corinthians 15:11