

## ***Living in Our New Identity***

- **Day One—Read John 5:1-15.**

What are the factors in this man that affected his identity? Why do you think Jesus asked him if he wanted to be well? Who had he been blaming? What changes do you see in him? Why do you think he later told the Jews that it was Jesus?

**Pray** and thank God for the great gift of Jesus – the source of our new identity. Thank him that he is the God of new beginnings!

- **Day Two—Read 1 John 1:8-9; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Titus 3:3-7; James 5:16.**

What difference does it make, in terms of our identity, to understand that we are totally loved and fully forgiven by God? What does it say about how God feels about us that our salvation was initiated by God?

**Pray** – Thank God for his great love for you. Thank him that while you were dead in your sin, he loved you and died for you.

- **Day Three—Read Romans 15:7; 1 John 3:1a; Galatians 6:2-5; 1 Corinthians 12:13, 27.**

Why is knowing where we are, what God says, and who we are “in Christ” so important in the development of a healthy sense of identity? What’s the difference between not “earning our salvation,” but “finding our place” and functioning in the body of Christ?

**Pray** – Thank God for the place you have in the Body of Christ. Ask him to help you function effectively as a member. Ask him to fill you and use you today for his purpose and glory.

### **New Life Lessons**

January 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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## ***“A New Identity”***

### ***New #1***

John 5:1-15; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:3-6

**John 5:1-15** <sup>(NIV)</sup> <sup>1</sup> Jesus **went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews.** <sup>2</sup> Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades.

<sup>3</sup> Here **a great number of disabled people used to lie--the blind, the lame, the paralyzed.** <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> One who was there had been **an invalid for thirty-eight years.** <sup>6</sup> When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, **"Do you want to get well?"** <sup>7</sup> "Sir," the invalid replied, **"I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."**

<sup>8</sup> Then Jesus said to him, **"Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."**

<sup>9</sup> At **once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.** The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, <sup>10</sup> and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat." <sup>11</sup> But he replied, **"The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"** <sup>12</sup> So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?" <sup>13</sup> The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

<sup>14</sup> Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, **"See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you."**

<sup>15</sup> The **man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.**

***How did this man see himself? How did Jesus see him?***

## Sources of Identity

<b>Family</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Age</b>
<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Ethnicity</b>
<b>Socio-economic Class</b>		<b>Role Models</b>
<b>Sexual Preference</b>	<b>Life Altering Events</b>	

**Primary Groups/Surrogate Families**

## Roots of an Unhealthy Identity

- **Lack of Social Support & Mentors**
- **Not forgiving others or ourselves**
  - **Trying to ignore past hurts**
  - **Sexual/Emotional Abuse**
- **Focusing on past failures**
- **Replaying lies and negative thoughts about ourselves**
- **Viewing our roles as our identity**
- **Living up to labels/views of others**
- **Believing we cannot change**
  - **“This is as good as it gets”**

## Our New Identity in Christ

### 1. Knowing Where We Are.

**John 5:3-5** (NIV) <sup>3</sup> (At the Pool of Bethesda) a great number of disabled people used to lay--the **blind**, the **lame**, the **paralyzed**. <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. John 5:14; 9:1-2; Ephesians 2:1-2; Titus 3:3-7

**1 Corinthians 6:11** (NIV) <sup>11</sup> And **that is what some of you were**. But you were **washed**, you were **sanctified**, you were **justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. Luke 15:17-24

### 2. Knowing What God Says.

**John 5:6b, 8** (NIV) <sup>6b</sup> Jesus asked him, **"Do you want to get well?"** <sup>8</sup> Then Jesus said to him, **"Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."**

**1 John 1:9** (NIV) <sup>9</sup> If we **confess our sins, he is faithful** and just and will **forgive us our sins** and **purify us** from all unrighteousness. 2 Corinthians 5:17; Isaiah 1:18

### 3. Knowing Who We Are.

**John 5:15** (NIV) <sup>15</sup> The man went away and **told the Jews** that it was **Jesus** who had **made him well**.

**James 5:16** (NIV) <sup>16</sup> Confess **your sins to each other** and **pray for each other so that you may be healed**. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Matthew 18:21-22

**Romans 15:7** (NIV) <sup>7</sup> **Accept one another**, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. 1 John 3:1a; Ephesians 2:1-10; Psalm 100:1-5; Zephaniah 3:17b; Galatians 6:2-5

**Affirmation**      **Belonging**      **Contribution**

**1 Corinthians 12:27** (NIV) <sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and **each one of you is a part of it.** 1 Corinthians 12:7; Philemon 1:15-21; Ephesians 2:8-10