

Identity Theft

Part 1: I've Been Robbed
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The Truth About Me Found in Genesis 2

I was created in the image of God, uniquely and intentionally,
for the purpose of glorifying Jesus in everything I do.
The fingerprints of God are on my soul.

Somewhere along the line, a part of me was stolen. The proof?

Starving for... I settled for...

<u>God</u>	Autonomy (Romans 1)
<u>Intimacy</u>	Sex (Genesis 2:20-25)
<u>Community</u>	Independence (Hebrews 10:24-25, Galatians 6:2, Romans 12:13)
<u>Purpose</u>	Status (Ephesians 2:10, Ecclesiastes 5:10)
<u>Significance</u>	Popularity (Isaiah 43)
<u>Worship of God</u>	Self-focus (Romans 1:21-23)
<u>Contentment</u>	A quiet discontent (1 Timothy 6)

How did this happen?

"Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber.

²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not

recognize a stranger's voice." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." - John 10:1-10

The Good Shepherd = Jesus

The Thief = Satan

The Objective of the Thief = Steal, kill, destroy

The Target of the Thief = Your true spiritual identity

The Promise of the Shepherd = I have come to bring a new life

The Lie of the Thief

You are uniquely and eternally broken. You have no purpose.

You will never get it right because the fingerprints of failure are on your soul.

Protecting Our True Identity in Christ

Detect - Can we admit that we have had our identity stolen?

Protect - What do we need to do to take back what has been stolen?

Resolve - How do we reconcile our true identity with our perceived identity?

Reimburse - Can this only come from Jesus?

One more promise:

...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. – Philippians 1:6

Next Steps

For some great biblical wisdom on protecting your true spiritual identity, take time this week to read Colossians 2. You'll find important reminders of who Jesus Christ is, what he has done for you, the identity he's given you, and precautions to help safeguard your spiritual identity.

Small Group Questions

- 1) Have you ever done a refinishing project? How did it go?
- 2) When you read "The Truth about Me", what is your honest response?
- 3) Can you fill in this statement personally: Starving for _____, I settled for _____.
- 4) How has Satan stolen, killed, and destroyed in your past? With hope in your heart, how is Jesus replacing what was stolen, giving you new life, and restoring what was destroyed?
- 5) One of the keys to protecting your spiritual identity is knowing the voice of the Good Shepherd. Read Psalm 8:3-5. How does Jesus see you in light of that psalm?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?