

Week Four Heartwork: I Have Identity Issues

Ugh! Identity Issues! Am I okay? Do you think I'm okay? Does God think I'm okay? What do you think about what I think about me? What do I think about what you think about me? What do I think you think God thinks about me, and what do you think about what I think about what He thinks? . . . Am I actually a middle-school girl trapped in a woman's body?!?

We may have some "head knowledge" of our value to God and our beloved relationship with Him if we have embraced Jesus Christ for forgiveness and restoration, BUT getting that truth into our hearts so that it works out into our lives and relationships can be another thing. And the reality is our Identity Issues spill over into our relationships with others. That's where our issues really surface, churning up in our inner world and often crashing out into our connections with family and friends.

So, this week we are going to take a look at how Jesus handled His identity and how it spilled over into His life and relationships. Make observations about Jesus' attitude toward Himself and others and consider in the application section how to work that attitude into your life in a practical way. If you don't see the connection with Identity issues in your observations, NO WORRIES! We'll connect the dots at the lecture. Just enjoy your discovery of Jesus and His amazing example to us!

Observation: Pray and read the following passage. List your observations (aim for 20). You may find it helpful to read in one or two different translations.

Philippians 2:5-11

5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: **6**

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with

God something to be grasped, **7** but made himself nothing,

taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human

likeness. **8** And being found in appearance as a man, he

humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death

on a cross! **9** Therefore God exalted him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name, **10** that at

the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on

earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that

Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Interpretation: Sum Up what you saw in a sentence or two.

Personal Application: Use the SPECK method to find at least one way to apply this passage in your life, considering especially Jesus' attitude and approach toward Himself and others and how you might incorporate those into your life.