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OVERCOMING IDENTITY THEFT – WHAT’S YOUR WORLDVIEW?

I. Introduction

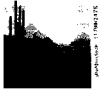
- A. Example of modern Identity Theft - the Michelle Brown Story
- B. Actual First Identity Theft – Satan plants a seed to change Eve’s worldview
“Really? Did God actually say you must not eat any of the fruit in the garden?”
(**Genesis 3:1 NLT**) Identity theft begins when words are spoken, seeds of doubt are planted, questioning the truth of who God is and what God has said.
- C. Overview of this presentation

II. Worldview defined and why it’s so important

- A. “Any ideology, philosophy, theology, movement or religion that provides an overarching approach to understanding God, the world and man’s relations to God and the world. ” (source: David Noebel.)
- B. An individual’s worldview is his “big picture,” – a harmony of all his beliefs about the world, his way of understanding reality, his basis for making daily decisions (source: gotquestions.org.)
- C. Worldviews plant seeds in our hearts causing us to either grow into a “shrub in the desert” or a “fruit bearing tree” **Jeremiah 17:5-6 (NLT)**

⁵This is what the LORD says:

“Cursed are those who put their trust in mere humans,
who rely on human strength
and turn their hearts away from the LORD.



⁶They are like **stunted shrubs in the desert**,
with no hope for the future.
They will live in the barren wilderness,
in an uninhabited salty land.

III. Examples of Common Popular Worldviews -

A. Worldviews redefine Woman – We’re Deprived, not depraved.

1. Relationally Deprived - My Husband isn’t meeting my emotional needs, my spouse is making me unhappy ...Satan plants seeds about the “perfect man.”
2. Culturally Deprived – Satan plants seeds of dissatisfaction, need to fight for equality and my rights.
3. Physically Deprived - This worldview says my genes, hormones, and/or brain chemicals are the cause of my problems. I’m physically deprived, not depraved.

B. World Views that Redefine God

1. New Age View - “Are we gods (little g) or Are we God’s (capital G)?”
2. Buddhism - Buddhism doesn’t have a creator god and they believe strongly in the doctrine of *karma*. Karma = “the sum of a person's actions in this and previous states of existence, viewed as deciding their fate in future existences.”

C. Digital information/on- line information

D. Fear of Man --We either fear man or we fear God. It’s one or the other.

Proverbs 29:25 (NLT) says:

“Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the LORD means safety.”

1. I am who I am based on my relationships - we fear man in giving them power to define us – instead of God.
2. I am who I am based on what I achieve - Again, when we fear man we are allowing our identity in Christ to be stolen and replacing our identity with what we achieve.



E. Dangerous Erroneous “Christian” World view –

1. The “Prosperity Gospel” teaches that God’s aim is to make believers healthy and wealthy in this life.
2. Pull text from context, i.e.: **3 John 2, Psalm 103:2-3**

IV. Human Condition seen in Faulty Assessments = Worldviews that Steal our Identity (Look at Female Worldview Assessment handout.)

What am I hearing?

What is God saying?

Ephesians 4:23-24 (NLT): ²³Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. ²⁴Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

We need to constantly check our thoughts to see if they line up with who we are in Christ.

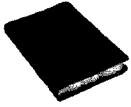
WHO AM I? From Tim Challies.com – Getting to Know Yourself 3/27/15

“The Bible is different from every other book in this way: **Where I read all those other books, the Bible reads me.**”

Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting! (**Psalm 139:23-24**)

The Bible searches me and tells me where I have erred. It examines me and tells me what I need. It tries me and evaluates my every thought and attitude. Ultimately, it reads me and tells me who I am.

Who am I? I will never know until I open the Bible and ask.”



V. Redemptive Answers = Will Never Know my True Identity - Who I am in Christ
- apart from the Bible

A. Worldview redefines Women saying - We're Deprived, not depraved. But God says:

- **Romans 5:12** What is the real root of all problems? Our sin nature is the root of all problems. We're all sinners who serve our selves. We tend to think our personal circumstances are the real problem but that is not true.
- **Proverbs 3:5-6**
- **John 10:10**
- **2 Peter 1:3**

1. Relationally Deprived but God says:

- **John 8:36**
- **Psalms 34:5**

2. Culturally Deprived but God says:

- **John 4**
- **Galatians 5:28**
- **Philippians 2:1-5**
- **Psalms 16:8**

3. Physically Deprived - Science says the problem is our body chemistry, our genetics, our DNA but God says:

- **2 Corinthians 3:18**
- **Romans 5:12**
- **Romans 5:17**



B. World Views that Redefine God

1. New Age View but God says:

- **John 3:16-17**
- **2 Peter 3:9**
- **John 10:7**
- **John 14:6**

2. Buddhism view – (Check out *Lotus and the Cross: Jesus Talks with Buddha* by Ravi Zacharias, can listen to an audible book review on You Tube.)

- **Colossians 1:27-28**

C. Digital information/on-line information

- **Colossians 2:8**

D. Fear of Man –

- **Proverbs 29:25**

“Fear of the Lord is to live in constant awareness of the existence, attributes, and glories of God (His sovereignty, His goodness, His wisdom, and His holiness, etc.) to the point that His reality controls and directs my actions, words, thoughts, motives (affections, desires, feelings, etc.) in all my circumstances, responsibilities, and relationships. My comprehension of God restrains me from doing evil and constrains me to do good in any situation – no matter what is happening.” (Definition from Tim Bryant at LCBCC, in “Transformed by Truth” course manual, pg. 235.)

1. When we think we are who we are based on our relationships and wanting approval from man, we need to think instead what God says:

- **Galatians 1:10**
- **Psalm 118:8-9**
- **1 Thessalonians 2:4**
- **Isaiah 8:13**
- **Psalm 60:11**
- **Isaiah 51:7**

2. When we think our identity is based on what we achieve, we are turning from God and need to meditate on **Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NLT)** – the ultimate verse to keep us from identity theft:



⁷“But blessed are those who trust in the LORD
and have made the LORD their hope and confidence.

⁸They are like trees planted along a riverbank,
with roots that reach deep into the water.

Such trees are not bothered by the heat
or worried by long months of drought.

Their leaves stay green,
and they never stop producing fruit.

- **Psalm 92:12 and 14-15 (NLT)** says:

¹²But the godly will flourish like palm trees
and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon.

¹⁴Even in old age they will still produce fruit;
they will remain vital and green.

¹⁵They will declare, “The LORD is just!
He is my rock!
There is no evil in him!”



E. Dangerous Erroneous Christian World View – the “prosperity gospel” – the key counter-examples of those who teach that God’s aim is to make believers healthy and wealthy, according to David Platt, are:

- **Luke 9:57-62**
- **John 12:23-26**
- **2 Corinthians 4:7-12**
- **2 Corinthians 11:23-28**
- **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

(Source: www.radical.net, click on materials to see book for *Secret Church 2015*, at pages 78-82.)

VI. Conclusion

- **2 Corinthians 10:5**
- **Romans 8:12-14**
- **Romans 12:2**
- **Genesis 1**

God created people in His own image – God blessed them and told them –

Be fruitful - Multiply and fill the earth!

Female Worldview Assessment –Mark True or False.

- T/F 1. I think God doesn't love me.
- T/F 2. God should fix my problems.
- T/F 3. I need to learn to love myself.
- T/F 4. I can't help the way I am.
- T/F 5. I have rights to be treated certain ways.
- T/F 6. I should not have to live with unfulfilled longings.
- T/F 7. God can't forgive what I have done.
- T/F 8. I am not fully responsible for my actions and reactions.
- T/F 9. I cannot walk in consistent victory over sin because of a disorder/pain/disease.
- T/F 10. I don't have time to do everything I'm supposed to do.
- T/F 11. I have to have a husband to be happy.
- T/F 12. My husband is supposed to meet my needs.
- T/F 13. If I submit to my husband, I'll be miserable.
- T/F 14. Sometimes divorce is a better option than staying in a bad marriage.
- T/F 15. If I feel something, it must be true.
- T/F 16. I can't control my emotions.
- T/F 17. I can't help how I respond because of my hormones, past, and/or medical diagnosis.

T/F 18. The answer to depression must first be found in medication and/or psychotherapy.

T/F 19. If my circumstances were different, I would be different.

T/F 20. I enjoy fellowship with Christ and Christians.

T/F 21. People would say I walk more in the light than in darkness.

T/F 22. I admit and confess my sins.

T/F 23. I am obedient to God's Word.

T/F 24. I live in a way that shows I love God more than the world.

T/F 25. My life is characterized by "doing what is right."

T/F 26. I seek to maintain a pure life.

T/F 27. I see a decreasing pattern of sin in my life (not total absence but not as a continuing way of life.)

T/F 28. I demonstrate love for other Christians.

T/F 29. I "walk the walk" not just "talk the talk."

T/F 30. I maintain a clear conscience.

T/F 31. I experience victory in my Christian walk.

T/F 32. I am in the process of continually being renewed in Christ.

T/F 33. Mostly, I govern my life by the Scriptures.

T/F 34. Mostly, I am generally patient and kind.

T/F 35. Mostly, I do not demand my own way.

T/F 36. Mostly, I am not jealous or boastful.

T/F 37. Mostly, I am not irritable.

T/F 38. I do not keep a record of wrongs suffered.

T/F 39. I avoid confrontations both good and bad.

T/F 40. I believe Christ provides the only way for a relationship with God.

T/F 41. I believe God has given me everything I need to live a godly life.

T/F 42. My struggles are mostly because of what has happened to me in life, damaging my heart.

T/F 43. I am a victim of people and circumstances.

T/F 44. Either pain, my disorder, or my disease causes me to think and act as I do.

T/F 45. My primary goal is emotional healing and relief from suffering.

T/F 46. I believe I am entitled to be treated with respect.

T/F 47. I believe God does not intend that I suffer.

T/F 48. I believe I am a victim to people/circumstances.

T/F 49. I believe personality is both constant and changeable - people can change some aspects of their personalities.

T/F 50. I believe man is locked into personality traits or behaviors determined by environment or genetics that cannot be changed.

T/F 51. I believe that perfect personal health is possible for fallen people.

T/F 52. I believe all personal problems have their roots in the sin of Adam and Eve.

T/F 53. I believe man's biggest problem is selfishness and rebellion against God and His law.

T/F 54. I believe God created every person to be related to others both physically and spiritually in families and churches.

T/F 55. I believe love is self-sacrifice of one person for another best exemplified by God through Jesus Christ.

T/F 56. I believe Jesus used self-love as a standard of how we're to love others, not as a command to love ourselves.

T/F 57. I believe that conscious, rational meditation on God's attributes and Biblical content is a necessary practice for all Christians.

T/F 58. I tend to look back on my life with remorse and regret instead of who I am in Christ.

Rev. 7.2015/#Assessments

Key for Female Worldview Assessment

#1-19: All answers should be False. If any answers are true, red flag to determine which “worldview” they are listening to. Ascertain need for Scripture to show truth, especially about God.

#20-41: All answers should be True. If any answers are false, look for correction in 1 John. Source: “Signs of Genuine Faith” at Gotquestions.org.

#42-48: All answers should be False. If any answers are true, determine their worldview beliefs whether deprived or not, and/or need for accurate Scripture.

#49: Correct answer True. Check for psychological viewpoints.

#50: Correct answer False. Give verses showing hope for change.

#51: Correct answer False. Check for prosperity gospel beliefs.

#52-53: Correct answers True. Show truths of Romans 5.

#54-57: All answers should be True. Check for Scripture to correct as needed.

#58: Correct answer False. Give hope in God’s truth. Rev. 7.2015

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