

Identity II (Outline Format)

(Birth versus Performance)

by Rene P. Brown

I. Performance

- A. Religions of the world - Performance based Buddhism, Hindu, Islam
- B. Seek to please their god with their idea of good

II. Christianity is about relationship based on Faith

A. Rom 4:3 (RSV) "For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.""

B. Not performance.

C. Abraham lied about his wife

- 1. Genesis 12:13-19 lied to Pharaoh
- 2. Genesis 20:2 lied to Abimelech.

D. Isaac as he lied in the same way in Genesis 26:7.

E. Righteousness **imputed** to Abraham - based on faith

- 1. Abraham's performance was poor!
- 2. God loved Abraham, Isaac and Jacob because of faith

F. Righteousness imputed to Isaac

- 1. Isaac lied like his father
- 2. God loved him because of his faith

G. Righteousness imputed to Jacob

- 1. Jacob a cheat, a schemer
- 2. God loved him - because of faith

III. Blood of Jesus

A. God reconciled the whole world

- 1. 2Cor 5:18-19 (RSV) "All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; {19} that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation."

B. Man can do nothing, God does it all (in Christ)

C. Sinner Identity - Man cannot please God

- 1. No performance is enough to secure salvation

D. Justified by faith in Jesus

E. All man can do is to trust in God

- 1. Rom 10:9-10 (RSV) "because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved."

2. Eph 2:8-9 (RSV) "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God-- ⁹not because of works, lest any man should boast."
3. Eph 2:5 (RSV) "even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)," Even our faith is a gift of God!
4. John 3:3 (RSV) "Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.""
5. Rom 5:1 (RSV) "Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."
6. Rom 5:18-19 (RSV) "Then as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one man's act of righteousness leads to acquittal and life for all men. ¹⁹For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous."

III. The Cross

A. First Half of the Gospel - Jesus shed His blood

1. Blood side of the cross - Jesus shed His blood for our forgiveness
All sins forgiven for all time - Past, Present and Future
Justified before God
In right standing
Did not remove our sin nature!!

B. Rest of the Gospel - Jesus died, we died

1. Body side of the cross of Christ
2. Jesus did not just shed His blood; His body died.
3. We died with him!

Rom 6:3-7 (RSV) "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into [immersed into**] Christ Jesus were baptized into [immersed into**] his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into [being placed into His**] death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For he who has died is freed from sin."

4. Sin Nature destroyed - the sin nature we inherited from Adam.
5. Immersed in Jesus, He died, we died

Water baptism a picture of what happened spiritually to us

Water baptism represents physically what the Holy Spirit did spiritually - put us in Christ

Baptized into the body of Christ spiritually

1Cor 12:13 (RSV) "For by one Spirit we were all baptized [immersed**] into one body [not in water but in the body of Christ**] -- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free -- and all were made to drink of one Spirit."

6. The "old man" or "old self" of Romans 6:6 (the sin nature of Adam) died when Jesus died

Eph 2:3 (NNAS) "Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath [sin nature**], even as the rest."

7. We were in Christ, He died so we died.
 - a. Rom 6:8 (RSV) "But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him."
 - b. Col 3:3 (RSV) "For you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God."
 - c. Not "positional truth" (whatever positional truth is!)
 - d. Do we believe the bible or not?
 - e. Something of me died
 - f. Not my body nor my soul
 - g. My spirit died - in the Eternal Realm.
8. Discuss Eternal Realm
 - a. With God, everything is always "now".
 - b. Ex. 3:14 (RSV) "God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'""
 - c. (John 8:58 NKJV) "Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.""
 - d. So the Lord God Almighty is not "Was" or "Will Be" but simply "I AM". He is eternally present!
 - e. Our new spirits entered God's Realm

IV. Re-Birth

- A. (John 3:7-8 NKJV) ""Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' {8} "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.""
- B. We are born again
- C. He was resurrected; we were resurrected a NEW MAN
 1. 2Cor 5:17 (NNAS) "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."
 2. In the spiritual realm or eternal realm as that is where our spirits dwell.
 3. New Creature, related to God
- D. New Birth, New Identity
- E. New Identity based on our birth, not performance
Birth determines identity, not performance
- F. 2Cor 5:21 (RSV) "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."
- G. Phil 3:9 (NNAS) "and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,"
- H. Colossians 2:10 (NKJV) "and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.
- I. Col 1:22 (NKJV) "in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight;" **The Rest of the Gospel:**

WE REALLY ARE A NEW MAN! THE OLD REALLY IS PASSED AWAY!

- V. Performance will not make us more holy, righteous or complete in Him
- A. Jesus' performance counts with God, the Father
 - B. We could not save ourselves
 - C. We cannot please God apart from Jesus
 - D. God has no interest in our "self" performance
"Self" work is independent of God
 - E. Doing things **for** God in **their** own strength
No "Rest of God" in such work, only sweat
- VI. Sunday Sermons
- A. Mostly performance based - do **for** God
 - B. Strive to live the Christian life
 - C. Set goals, live up to the bible!
 - D. Things not to do!
 - E. 1Cor 3:12-13 (NNAS) "Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work."

Hay, wood and straw will not pass through God's test fire in eternity
 - F. Many "good" works will burn up (look good to man, not to God)
(Even leading people to Jesus, getting people healed, delivered may be a dead work)
- VII. Dying to Self
- A. Mat 10:38-39 RSV) "and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹He who finds his [self or soul**] life will lose it, and he who loses his [self or soul**] life for my sake will find it."
 - B. Not talking about "old man" Old man is dead.
 - C. We now have in us the divine nature (Jesus lives in us!)
2 Pet 1:4 (RSV) "by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, that through these you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of passion, and become partakers of the divine nature."
 - D. The cross is for destruction or killing something or someone.
 - E. Self-life (flesh life) must be put aside daily
Self-life is life apart from Jesus living it
 - F. Lose our life (Matt. 10:39) in Him
Do nothing apart from Jesus doing it in us and through us.

Swallowed up in Jesus' Life

Become that "living sacrifice" of Romans 12:1.
 - G. Jesus lived only unto God the Father (did what Father did, said what Father said)

1. John 5:19 (RSV) "Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever he does, that the Son does likewise."
2. (John 8:28-29 RSV) "So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority but speak thus as the Father taught me.²⁹And he who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what is pleasing to him."

1. Our Pattern

- A. We do what Jesus does
- B. We say what Jesus says
- C. Jesus lives out His Life through us.
- D. Living sacrifice

Rom 12:1 (RSV) "I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

Lay down our will to Him

Give up dreams to Him

Give up goals to Him

Give up hopes to Him

- E. Our personality - We will still be us - more us than ever! Us without the cloud of self will.
- F. God wants **FELLOWSHIP!**
- G. He desires to be our very Life - real life is Jesus.
- H. Eternal Life is a person: **Jesus Christ**.

2Cor 12:10 (RSV) "For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong." (Eph 6:10 RSV) "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might."

God desired to relate to Israelites same way - In God's strength

Consider Jericho in Joshua 6:20

Consider Gideon's success in Judges 8:22

Consider Jehoshaphat in 2 Kings 3:22-24

It was the Lord's strength

2. Identity

- A. Not in Performance
- B. Identity in who we are "**in Christ**"
- C. If it is our performance, there is no relationship in it.
- D. If it is in Him, then the results are His
- E. Our identity is set for Eternity in Him
- F. Nothing will change our identity in Him
- G. In Christ, we are holy and righteous and complete. This is truth that will not change.
- H. Sins do not determine our identity in Him

1. Sins may affect our sense of relationship in our soul or feelings

Produces guilt feelings

Reduces sense of fellowship in Him

2. Walking in Him gives us a deep sense of relationship
3. Believer is free in Jesus - does not have to sin
 - A. The believer has a choice; in order to sin, he must choose to sin.
 - B. Persona called "Sin"(or as we are using the name, "Mr. Sin") dwells in him
 1. He does Satan's evil desires
 2. We are dead to Mr. Sin (that relationship died on the cross when we died)
 3. Mr. Sin can deceive us in our minds
 - a. (Rom 7:17 NKJV) "But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.")
 - b. It is not us and never will be us that is proposing the sinful ideas
 - c. Our spirit is complete in Christ
 - d. New Man does not want to sin
 - e. New Man can be deceived by Mr. Sin
 - f. He will be defeated in his mind
 - g. Do the very thing he hates
 - h. Rom 7:19-22 NKJV) "For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. ²⁰Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ²¹I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. ²²For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man."
 4. We can walk victorious over Mr. Sin

Col 1:27 (RSV) "To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

XI. Believer can overcome in Christ

- A. He will provide the victory.
- B. Victory done in the Lord's will.
- C. Never be a "dead work"
- D. This is "walking by the spirit"
- E. Gal 5:25 RSV) "If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit."

**So finally, let us remember: Birth determines Identity in the Lord's eyes!
Performance determines identity only to the flesh and to the world.
Flesh will never accomplish the purposes of God.**

Rom 7:18 (RSV) "For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it."

(*Note by author: In the lesson above, brackets [] denote explanatory words inserted by author in the biblical text and are not part of the original and do not form a part of the scripture but are solely to assist the reader in understanding the intent of the author in using the particular scripture).

*****End of Lesson*****