

The Reborn Identity: Death and Roles

When we got saved, we all died with Christ.

- **Colossians 3:3** For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
- **John 12:24** Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

You Died to Your Sin Nature

- **Romans 8:2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.
- **Romans 6:9-11** Knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰ For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - Sin can no longer have a hold on us

You died to the Law, or the power of the Law

- **Romans 7:4-6** Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. ⁵ For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. ⁶ But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not *in* the oldness of the letter.
 - Because you are joined with Christ, you are dead to the power of the law.
 - **Romans 7:7** What shall we say then? *Is* the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through

the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "*You shall not covet.*"

- The Law and flesh are not the same thing.
 - The Law and sin are not the same thing, but the Law gives sin its power.
 - The Law is what tells us as a human race what sin is. That is its purpose.
 - **Romans 7:10-11** And the commandment, which *was* to *bring* life, I found to *bring* death. ¹¹ For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed *me*.
 - **Romans 7:12-13** Therefore the law *is* holy, and the commandment holy and just and good. ¹³ Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.
 - When your sin nature dies and you receive a new spirit, the Law is no longer needed for righteousness.
- **Legalism:** our attempt today to gain favor with God.
 - Rules that people put in place. They have the appearance of being good and holy and right, but are nothing more than positive flesh.

You Died to Yourself as Your Point of Reference

Synonymous with living in the flesh.

- A breeding ground for both positive and negative flesh.
- Performance-based acceptance that keeps you trapped in the flesh's cycle of bondage.
 - **Deception #1:** "I am not righteous—I am righteous IN CHRIST."
 - What this statement actually means: You are only righteous when you are being spiritual.
 - **2 Corinthians 5:21** For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- You are righteous. Based on faith in what Christ did, not what you have done, are doing, or will do.
- **Deception #2:** "I'm just clothed in Christ's righteousness."
 - What this statement actually means: God is uniting Himself with an unclean spirit that's wrapped in clean clothes.
 - **Ephesians 4:24** ...Put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.
- **Deception #3:** "Christ is the One who is righteous in me."
 - What this statement actually means: You are a sinner who happens to have Christ in you.
 - **1 Corinthians 6:17** But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*.
 - **2 Corinthians 13:5** Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.
 - **John 14:16-17** And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.
- **Deception #4:** "My righteousness is simply a positional truth of the future."
 - What this statement actually means: Your righteousness is relegated to an unknown date in the future.
 - **1 John 4:17** Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.
 - As He is, so are we here – now.
 - Just because you do not feel righteous does not mean you are not righteous.
- **Deception #5:** "God only sees me through Christ."
 - He sees me as if I am righteous." or "When God looks at me, He doesn't see me— He only sees Christ."
 - What this statement actually means: You are not really righteous, but God chooses to see you this way.

- Read Psalm 139
- **Psalm 139:1-5** O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.
² You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. ³ You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. ⁵ You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.
- God sees YOU as you are.

Christ as Your Point of Reference

- Frees you to break the flesh's cycle of bondage.
- Manifesting Christ's life produces fruit that has meaning and purpose.
 - God does not expect you to produce fruit, because Christ in you produces the fruit.
 - That fruit has eternal results.
- You will start to **see yourself as an asset to God, not a liability**.
 - You are God's COMPLETE package of the expression of Christ's life.
 - Christ wants to live in you, through you and as you.
 - God uses ALL of you. You cannot manifest anything without ALL three parts of you—spirit, soul and body.

Your Role

What your role **IS NOT**:

1. To figure out who you are, or to define yourself by anything other than what God says about you.
2. To meet your own needs of love, acceptance, worth and security—nor anyone else's.
3. To make God love you, or to ensure that He keeps loving you—by what you do or don't do.
4. To fix yourself. You cannot fix flesh with flesh.

So what is our role?

John 6:28-29 ²⁸ Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

Our Role: SURRENDER

SURRENDER: To give up. To yield.

- This is where it starts when you become a believer the first time, and this is also where it starts in the continuous life as a believer.
 - **Galatians 5:16** I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
- Can only be done with a life of intentionality.
- Choosing to surrender is the only thing that is required.
 - You surrender to be born again—
 - Then you must surrender your mind, will and emotions—your soul—to the Lord – daily.
- **1 Corinthians 15:31** I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.
- **Luke 9:23** Then He said to *them* all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

God is not going to do anything with an un-surrendered heart.

- This does not disqualify you from keeping your new spirit.
- It blocks the flow of the life of God in your life.
- Intimacy with the Father is delayed in certain areas.
- It allows flesh to reign and the enemy to lie, cheat and steal our victory and our peace.

The degree to which you surrender is the degree to which you will experience Christ's life in your soul.

SURRENDERING THE MIND

"Spiritual battles are won or lost at the threshold of the mind, not in the mind."

- Every thought that comes to your mind has to pass through the threshold of your mind.
- The job description for the threshold:
 - ...casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ ... —2 Corinthians 10:5
- The source of "arguments and every high thing" can come from either the enemy or the flesh (or both).
- Regardless of the source, your response should be the same: "NO."

Just because you think it, does not mean you have to believe it.

Just because you think it, does not make it true.

- You can deal with a thought or a lie *before* it takes root in your soul.
 - RECOGNIZE the origin of any thought: Is it attacking your character or is it encouraging?
 - Is it accusing and condemning you or is it healing and releasing freedom?
 - Is it confusing you or clarifying things for you?
 - Will it lead to your destruction or will it lead you to a closer relationship with the Lord?
 - Does it cause you to doubt God's character and motives, or does it increase your faith?
- **ALLOW OR DENY** that thought further entrance into your mind.
 - Should it be allowed to come in and be considered further?
- **CONFRONT** the thought if you have determined that the thought should be denied entrance.
 - **James 4:7** Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
 - **Resist:** to oppose; a pro-active word, the idea is to create a physical force that repels and pushes back.
- **REMEMBER** who you are.

- Sin and Satan do not have authority over you anymore; **YOU** have authority over them.
- You are an heir of Christ, you have the authority of Almighty God backing you.
- **DECLARE** God's Truth over the lie.
- **THANK** Jesus for what He has done, specifically in reference to that thought.

Scripture is clear on the importance of renewing your mind.

- **Isaiah 26:3** You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose* mind *is* stayed on *You*, because he trusts in You.
- **Romans 8:5-6** For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.
- **Romans 12:1-2** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Your MIND is where that transformation takes place.

Your will and emotions take their cue from what passes the threshold and enters the mind.

SURRENDERING THE EMOTIONS

Emotions should not dictate your life, but God created them in order for you to experience them.

The first thing to surrender in the area of emotions: an incorrect view of them.

- Emotions are created by God, and they are important.
- Feelings are facts—you feel what you feel.

- Emotions are not premeditated. What you feel is an involuntary response to your perception of what is happening around you or to you.
- Right and wrong do not apply to feelings.
- Feelings are not a measure of spirituality.
- Your emotions are not your enemy.
- But emotions are a giant flag waving to get out attention. Which leads to...

The second thing to surrender in the area of emotions: what you do with them.

- Ask yourself a series of questions:
 - "What am I feeling?"
 - "Why am I feeling this way?"
 - "What's the lie that I'm believing?"
 - "What is God's Truth about me?"

SURRENDERING THE WILL

Your will is your "chooser"—how you make decisions.

- This is the most difficult area of the soul to surrender:
 - Surrendering your will is trusting, not trying. It is resting, not controlling.
 - Surrendering your will is giving up your rights and privileges to meet your needs and letting God meet them.
- Surrendering the will involves both repentance and brokenness.
 - Repentance means "to change one's mind," and specifically, "to change one's mind to come into agreement with God."
 - **2 Corinthians 7:10** For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.
- Godly sorrow is guilt.
 - Guilt says, "I made a mistake. I disagreed with God." It is decision-based sorrow.
 - Guilt leads you to change your mind and agree with God.
- Sorrow of the world is shame.

- Shame is the result of a distorted belief system.
- Shame says, "I am a mistake." It is identity-based sorrow.
- Shame leads to death, or bondage of the soul.

Brokenness is the process of coming to the end of self-effort.

- When you exchange your self-life for Christ's life by acknowledging the uselessness of the flesh's efforts.
- It brings you to the end of your own resources as you realize that your adequacy is found only in Him.
- **2 Corinthians 1:8-9** For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. ⁹ Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead
- **2 Corinthians 12:10** Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

The evidence of brokenness is when you no longer react with your previous flesh patterns.

- All your rights have been surrendered.
- You are willing to be out of control.
- You are not believing in or living by your old belief systems or old patterns, but by Christ within.
- You become obedient simply out of a love motive because you want to, not because you have to.
- You are not performing for God, but actively letting Christ live in and through you.
- You are willing to fail, and willing to be weak.
- You are teachable even in areas you think you have mastered.
- You are willing to be misunderstood or have others receive credit.
- You are willing to submit to brokenness again.

God's plans for you never result in breaking your spirit. His plans involve breaking you from relying on the flesh.

Surrender in all three areas (mind, emotions and will) requires absolute dependence on God.

Jesus said it is possible to live with unwavering, perfect peace and confidence, through every circumstance.

- **John 16:33** These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”
- Surrender makes that possible.