

# Sermon Notes – February 4, 2018

## Review

- ⇒ Several weeks ago, we saw that we must RUN from sin & temptation. The culture around us fosters an “I-want-it-now” attitude, encouraging us to follow our impulses & desires, even when they violate God’s standards.
- ⇒ We remembered Joseph who RAN from the temptation to sin with Mrs. Potipher. We noted that sometimes there are *people* & *places* to avoid, and *situations* to stay out of.
- ⇒ In our study last week, we saw that God cares about the details of our personal lives – marriage, sex, whether to get married or not, boundaries on divorce – God cares about all of it.

## Today’s Text: I Corinthians 7:17-24

Human life has always been marked by social classes or cultural divisions or personal preferences. Such human groupings are not sinful in & of themselves. At the same time, as followers of Christ, we must find our CORE IDENTITY in Christ. We are first and most importantly sons & daughters of the King! This is our identity!

## Joyfully Live the Life God Has Assigned to You

- ⇒ People often find their identity in their life circumstances. Verses 17, 20, and 24 all carry the same essential message: ***Follow Christ where you are, and don’t stress about where you aren’t! Don’t focus on your \_\_\_\_\_; focus on \_\_\_\_\_.***
- ⇒ The examples Paul gives are \_\_\_\_\_. Don’t remain in sin! (Cf. 19)
- ⇒ One writer uses five categories to describe common identities:
  - I = \_\_\_\_\_
  - D = \_\_\_\_\_
  - O = \_\_\_\_\_
  - L = \_\_\_\_\_
  - S = \_\_\_\_\_

Finding Your Identity in Christ Alone  
I Corinthians 7:17-24  
Pastor Jay Mosser

- ⇒ Instead of those false identities, live in your true identity (22)! Of course, that doesn’t mean you should be \_\_\_\_\_! If there are things you can change, do it! (21)
- ⇒ Have you ever asked, “How can I joyfully follow Christ with this \_\_\_\_\_ or circumstance or problem or \_\_\_\_\_?”

## Finding Your True Identity in Christ Alone

Who are you as a follower of Christ?

- ⇒ I am part of the fallen human race, therefore my desires & my passions & my worldview are deeply broken; sin affects my entire being.
- ⇒ I am redeemed through the blood of Christ; I live in Him; I am “in Christ.”
- ⇒ I deeply need God’s perspective on life, found only in the written Word of God, the Bible. God’s perspective is always right, true, and good for me.
- ⇒ I need God’s grace to grow in holiness, that is, daily obedience to Him. I need Christ to re-shape my desires & my heart from rebellion to yieldedness.
- ⇒ One day I will be fully & finally whole – in His presence.

## Responding to God’s Word

- ⇒ In what false areas are YOU most tempted to find your identity? Why does that false identity have such a pull on your heart?
- ⇒ Our lives are typically divided into identifiable “chapters” – seasons marked by both limitations and opportunities. Sometimes we chafe at the chapter we are in, living in ungratefulness & discontent, unwilling to live full into the unique opportunities before us. What chapter of life are YOU in? What limitations & opportunities do you need to embrace?
- ⇒ In today’s text, Paul says, “You were bought with a price” (as in 6:19-20). The point? “Your life” is not YOUR life; you belong to CHRIST, and He has the right to direct your life according to HIS purpose.
- ⇒ Are you willing to ASK GOD today to help you joyfully “lead the life that God has assigned” to you? Will you do that right now?