

Session 5 – Believer’s Identity

Who are you?

Are you a good person? What makes a person a good person?

I. Two methods of developing identity:

A. Self-image or self-esteem based upon the **natural** perspective

The World’s View of worth:

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{My performance} \\ + \text{other's opinion} \\ \hline = \text{My worth} \end{array}$$

B. Self-image or self-esteem based upon **spiritual** perspective

II. Law and Grace

Expectations for Acceptance

Self rating others	Mother	Dad	Peers	Siblings	God	Self
10						
9						
8						
7			X			
6				X		
5						
4		X			X	
3						
2	X					X
1						

Mother rating a child	Good grades	Be obedient	Look good	Go to church	Respectful	honest
10						
9						X
8				X		
7						
6					X	
5						
4		X				
3						
2	X		X			
1						

Expectations = standards = law

Law vs. Grace

Achieving vs. Receiving System

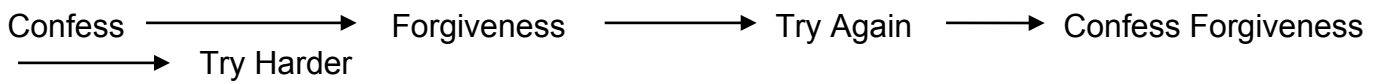
Expectations = Standards = Laws

Romans 7:4-6

Galatians 2:20-21

Romans 9:30-10:4

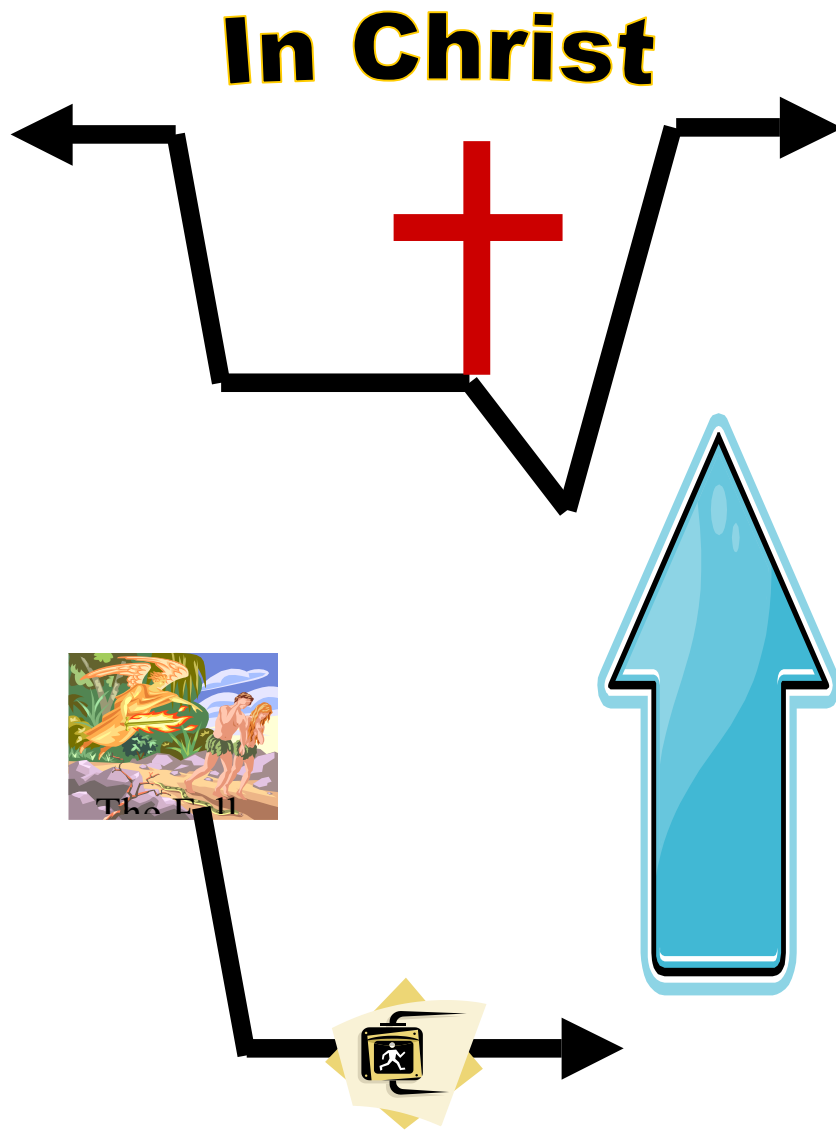
A. Under the achieving system we are on a treadmill:



B. We experience fruit for death:

What determines who I am?

II. The Method



A. By Birth

B. By Gift

IV. Possible Deceptions Regarding Righteousness:

V. Prayer of Faith

Father,

I admit that I have labored on a treadmill, trying to meet standards for acceptance, bearing fruit for death. I thank You that when I was crucified with Christ, You removed me from an achieving system. I do hereby accept the gift of Your righteousness which is now my righteousness. From now on, no matter what my feelings, memories, behaviors, the world or Satan tells me, I agree with Your word that I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

By God's Grace,

Signature

VI. Implications

My Changed Identity

Old Identity

I am unworthy/unacceptable

I am a failure/inadequate

I am fearful/anxious person

I am a weak person

I am not very smart

I am in bondage

I am unloved

I am unwanted

I am guilty

I am depressed and hopeless

There is nothing special about me

I am not good enough

I am defeated

I have no strength

I am condemned

I am alone

I have no one to take care of me

I can not reach God

I am afraid of Satan

I have no confidence

New Identity

I am accepted and worthy

Ro 15:7, Ps 139:13-18

I am adequate

2Cor 3:5-6, Ph 4:13

I am free from fear

Ps 34:4, 2Tim 1:7, 1Pe 5:7, 1Jn 4:18

I am strong in Christ

Da 11:32, Ph 4:19

I have God's wisdom

Pr 2:6-7, 1Co 1:30, Ja 1:5

I am free

2Co 3:17, Jn 8:36

I am very loved

Ro 8:35-39, Eph 2:4-5, 5:2, 1Jn 4:8-11

I am adopted by God and I am His child

Ro 8:16-17, Ga 4:5, Eph 1:5, 1Jn 3:2

I am totally forgiven

Ps 103:12, Eph 1:7, Co 1:14, 20, 2:13

I have all the hope I need

Ro 15:13, Ps 16:11, 27:13, 31:2

I have been chosen, set apart by God

Ro 15:13, 1Cor 1:30, 6:11, Heb 10:10

I am perfect in Christ

Heb 10:14

I am victorious

Ro 8:37, 2Cor 2:14, 1Jn 5:4

I have God's power, indwelt by the Holy

Spirit Ro 8:9, 11, Ac 1:8, Eph 3:16

I am blameless

Ro 8:1, Jn 3:18

I am never alone

Heb 13:5, Ro 8:38-39

I am protected and safe

Ps 32:7-11, 27:1-6

I have access to God

Eph 2:6, 1Pe 2:5, 9

I have authority over Satan

Co 1:13, Eph 2:6, 1Pe 2:5, 9, 1Jn 4:4

I have all the confidence I need

Pr 3:26, 14:26, Heb 10:19, Eph 3:12

(Pick at least one that you struggle with and memorize the appropriate scripture.)

Law vs. Grace

Law

Do
Man does
Flesh
Man's Resources
External regulations, rules, standards
Ought to, should, have to, must
Bondage, duty, obligation
Outside – in
Do in order to be
Defeat, guilt, condemnation
Achieve, try harder, work, effort

Deuteronomy 28:1
Romans 3:19
Matthew 5:48

Grace

Done
God does
Spirit
God's Resources
Inner Heart Attitude
Want to
Freedom
Inside – out
You are therefore you do
Victory, Security, Acceptance
Receive, trust, abide, rest

Ephesians 1&2
Romans 5:17, 7:6
Mark 12:30-31
Galatians 6:2, 2:20
John 15:12
2 Corinthians 5:17