



Session 3

Lesson 4: Restoring My Identity



Quote

- “Men are looking for methods. God is looking for men.”

-- E.M.Bounds



Key Terms

- Prayer, worship, fellowship
- “Man of God” vs. “Minister for God”
- “What are you reading?”



Lecture Objectives

- Identify and describe sources of a Biblical understanding of calling and identity
- Describe the difference between personal identity and programs noting especially the importance of this difference



To Think About Before You Go On

- What are some things that you have been doing to keep your sense of identity in Christ clear?
- How has your sense of identity impacted (strengthened or weakened) the ministry to which you have been called?

Thoughts from Jonathan Edwards, *Religious Affections*



Interactive question

Shaping Your Life...

5 Favorite Books:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

5 Most Influential People:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

10 Most Life-Changing Events:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Personal Reading Survey from *Disciplines of a Godly Man*, by Kent Hughes

Hudson T. Armerding

1. *The Bible*
2. *Calvin's Institutes*
3. *Knowing God*, Packer
4. *A Systematic Theology of the Christian Religion*, Buswell
5. *History of the U.S. Navy in World War Two*, Morison

James M. Boice

1. *Calvin's Institutes*
2. *Inspirational and Authority of the Bible*, Warfield
3. *History of the Reformation*, Lindsay
4. *Basic Christianity*, Stott
5. *Romans (10 vols.)*, Barnhouse

Charles Colson

1. *Mere Christianity*, Lewis
2. *Confessions*, Augustine
3. *The Cost of Discipleship*, Bonhoeffer
4. *Treatise on Religious Affections*, Jonathan Edwards
5. *Knowing Scripture*, Sproul
6. *Knowing God*, Packer
7. *Pilgrim's Progress*, Bunyan

J.I. Packer

1. *Institutes*, Calvin
2. *Pilgrim's Progress*, Bunyan
3. *John Owen Works (Vols. 3,6,7)*, Goold
4. *Reformed Pastor*, Baxter
5. *Bondage of the Will*, Luther

Eugene Peterson

1. *Epistle to the Romans*, Barth
2. *The Idiot*, Fyodor Dostoyevski
3. *Descent of the Dove*, Charles Williams
4. *Moby Dick*, Melville
5. *Country Parson and the Temple*, George Herbert

R.C. Sproul

1. *Freedom of the Will*, Johnathan Edwards
2. *Bondage of the Will*, Luther
3. *Institutes*, Calvin
4. *God and Modern Philosophy*, James Collins
5. *A Time for Truth*, William Simon
6. *Power Golf*, Ben Hogan

Restoring My Identity

Restoring my identity is a life long process of daily reconnecting to Christ. How do I reconnect?

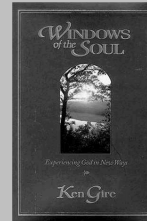
Growing in my love for Jesus as I seek to understand His love for me.

- Time alone with the Lord
- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Yearly
- Meditation on God's word
- Growth in prayer
- Engaging in worship
- Frequent dialogue and prayer with other believers
- Reading for Transformation

Becoming a Man of God Rather than a Minister for God.

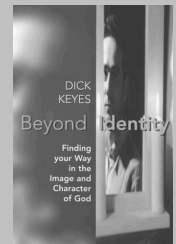
Too often our focus in ministry is on technique, rather than personal growth. When speaking of those in ministry, E.M. Bounds said, "Men are looking for [better] methods, God is looking for men." Youth ministry is often led with hype, great personalities, and uncontrolled energy. Though many students may attend, we must always look for substance in what we are claiming to give them. This substance is not just what we teach them on Sunday mornings, it's what we live before them everyday of our lives. As Doug Fields says, "Focus on being a person of God before doing the work of God."

Identity Resources:



Windows of the Soul, by Ken Gire. This book offers a rich reflective approach to seeing the faithfulness of God in new and fresh ways.

Beyond Identity: By Dick Keyes. "Finding your way in the image and character of God."



- **A love for Jesus is caught not taught**
- **You are the Message: Ethos**
- **People will follow you, not your program**

“People don’t at first follow worthy causes. They follow worthy leaders who promote worthwhile causes.” John Maxwell (The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership)



Join the discussion:

- Visit iCourse (<http://www.portal.covenantseminary.edu>) and let us know: What are some books that you have found most helpful in your ministry? What are the books that have been most helpful in keeping a focus on your identity?



- Go back and rethink the ‘To think about before you go on’ questions on the first page of this lecture.