

Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-9

Notes: Identity is how we define who we are. According to the world we are identified by our family or our occupation or by some life dominating sinful behavior. For example folks may say I am a Chemist or a school teacher. Someone may say I am an alcoholic or a drug addict. Americas Keswick has an interesting idea concerning how we can understand our identity according to the scriptures. Life is a journey and God has a model we can observe which will help guide our journey.

I. Our identity is modeled after the Israelites. 1 Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

In the previous nine verses Paul gives the folks at Corinth a history lesson about how God dealt with Israel. How God dealt with Israel gives us insight on how he deals with us. It will help if we realize Egypt is a picture of the world. First the Israelites are in bondage in Egypt, travel through the wilderness and finally to the promise land. When the Israelites were in Egypt they were in bondage to a cruel task master. They were provided with many of the desires of the flesh and exposed to idolatry.

1. When we are separated from God our identity is the natural man who resides in Egypt. Ephesians (2:1-3) The lost man is in bondage to sin because he inherits Adam's sin nature and is serving an evil cruel task master who provides many idols to keep us from seeking God.

A. The natural man is spiritually dead. And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Of course we are talking about spiritual death. The lost person cannot understand the spiritual truths of God because those truths are revealed to us by the Holy Spirit who only lives inside the believers. Paul gives you further insight about the condition of our minds in **Romans 8:6-8** For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

B. The master of the natural man is Satan. Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience The lost person serves Satan. They may not know it but they are serving him. Paul says in **Colossians 1:13** Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son salvation transfers our citizenship from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of Jesus. The ruler of the kingdom of darkness is Satan. He described as a thief and murderer who has a goal of destroying our lives.

C. The natural man lives a sinful lifestyle. Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. The word conversation means lifestyle; this is where we lived. The flesh is the part of a believer that desires to fulfill the desires of my fallen nature. Remember once Adam partook of the tree of knowledge of good and evil man inherited a fallen nature. The unsaved person is controlled by the world, the flesh and the devil. The sinner lives to fulfill the desires of the flesh. **1 John 2:16** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. Self is in Egypt which is a picture of the world. We are driven fulfill those things we desire. **Colossians 5:5-9** Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But

now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; Notice it says those who are lost are children of wrath. Apart from Christ man is under judgment. **John 3:18; 9:39** He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.....And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. These verses tell us man is already under judgment because they will not accept the truth that God has provided salvation through one man only. That is the Lord Jesus Christ.

II. To leave Egypt people need a deliverer. Ephesians 2:4-5; 8-9 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;).....For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. That word quickened means made alive. To leave Egypt it takes faith in Jesus which God gives us through his grace. God uses tools to give us that faith **Romans 10:17** So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. **John 16:8-9** And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; That's the convicting work of the Holy Spirit. When we live in Egypt our life is dominated by sin and we are deserving of hell but God has another plan. He convicts us and helps us come into a relationship with him.

"Carried To The Table" Leeland

Wounded and forsaken , I was shattered by the fall
Broken and forgotten, Feeling lost and all alone
Summoned by the King, Into the Master's courts
Lifted by the Savior, And cradled in His arms

**I was carried to the table
Seated where I don't belong
Carried to the table
Swept away by His love
And I don't see my brokenness anymore
When I'm seated at the table of the Lord
I'm carried to the table
The table of the Lord**

Fighting thoughts of fear, And wondering why He called my name
Am I good enough to share this cup, This world has left me lame
**Even in my weakness, The Savior called my name
In His Holy presence, I'm healed and unashamed**

You carried me, my God, You carried me
As I listened to this song I was broken because I realized that I really don't belong in his presence; I am not good enough. The only way we are worthy is when He carries us out of Egypt. When He died for my sin He removed the brokenness that separated me from God. When that happens it changes our identity. We become a delivered from the bondage of sin, blood bought child of the living God. Jesus is our deliverer, friend, brother, king, Savior and our God. We are no longer defined by who we are but by who's we are. Now we can say I'm a Christian.