

## IDENTITY

There once was a man who acquired an old garage that the local university was going to demolish. The garage was placed in the man's backyard. But it was a crooked garage in much need of a solid foundation. So the man had a friend build a concrete block foundation near the garage so it could be moved on "solid ground." However, when the day came to move the crooked garage onto the solid foundation, it had become so weakened and crooked from not having a good foundation, that it was smashed into pieces and ruined through the process of trying to move the garage onto a solid foundation. Some may laugh at this story as did the man's sons who were glad the eyesore of a garage was now lying in a heap of rubble.

But what about our foundation? What determines who we are? What determines our level of strength and security? Some people would say that **any time we place our source of security on something we can lose, we are living on dangerous ground.** So let's have a short conversation today about our identity.

- When you have the opportunity to introduce yourself to people, what do you tell them about you?
- What is your identity based on?
- Is it something you can lose?

People base their identity and security on a variety of different things: position, power, relationships (who you know), possessions (what you own), popularity (who likes you), abilities, jobs, financial status, home (where you live), car, health, roles, hobbies, pleasure...But if you look at the ones you closely identify with, any one of these sources of identity and security could be lost at any moment in time.

But just like the man's old garage, even if we know our foundation isn't secure, and we are trying to move to a more solid foundation, it doesn't always mean we will be able to make the shift. Sometimes our lives must fall apart before we can begin to rebuild them. In your search to feel good about yourself, you may have tried a variety of places to feel a sense of value and significance. Some places may have been fulfilling. Others may have felt empty. Some may have even lead to further problems or addictions.

In the Bible, we are introduced to a man named Jesus. He's described as the "Chief Cornerstone" and the "Only Secure Foundation." Those are some pretty interesting ways to describe a man. But this was no ordinary man. Jesus was the Son of God. Not only did He come to make us right with God, He came to demonstrate God's enduring love for us. Millions of people have discovered that Jesus Christ is the only secure foundation to base our lives on. Some would argue that since we have been created in the image of God, that God is the only One who has the right to determine who we are and the course of our lives. But when you hear these words, "**No one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.**" (1 Corinthians 3:11) What is your response? Does it make sense to you? Can God truly love us when He knows all the things we've done wrong in our lives? When is it hard for you to have faith in a God you can't see? Isn't it hard to base your life on Someone you cannot see?

**"Health Talks"** are designed to help us learn to talk and deal with one another in ways that build understanding and a healthy, growing, supportive, Christian community.