

"... pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart"
2 Timothy 2:22

October 10th, 2021 - Radical Self-Love?



Most people today don't know who they are because they've denied their Creator. They're forced to find their identity in the wrong places, like themselves or their careers. Sadly, identity becomes rooted in self and what makes self feel fulfilled, with little regard for others. The apostle Paul warned that when we abandon our Creator, all that's left is to serve the creature (Romans 1:25), and in the last days people would be "lovers of self" (2 Tim. 3:2).

This sad reality was exposed by a recent article in the New York Times by University professor Lara Bazelon called, "Divorce Can be an Act of Radical Self-Love." In this article, she explains how she chose her career over her marriage, and how it was a good thing. She used to think divorce was bad, *"But I've learned that divorce can also be an act of radical self-love that leaves the whole family better off. My divorce nearly seven years ago freed me from a relationship that was crushing my spirit. It freed my children, then 5 and 3, from growing up in a profoundly unhealthy environment. There*

was no emotional or physical abuse in our home. There was no absence of love. I was in love with my husband when we got divorced. Part of me is in love with him still. I suspect that will always be the case. Even now, after everything, when he walks into the room my stomach drops the same way it does before the roller coaster comes down. I divorced my husband not because I didn't love him. I divorced him because I loved myself more."

She goes on to explain that she was obsessed with her career: *"It gave me an identity, a purpose and comfort of knowing I could support myself."* She traveled constantly and was rarely present for her husband and kids. *"I would retreat to an inner world that made it hard to focus on the people right in front of me."* She fought hard to stay married because she had always heard divorce was terrible. *"But deep inside I knew that trying to force myself to subordinate my ambitions and always put our children first would have been impossible without lopping off a vital part of myself."* Once she finally divorced, it was liberating for her. She said she's not alone in this feeling; she mentions a recently divorced 38-year-old mother who is so proud she got to decorate her own apartment! *"Everything is my choice and I am in charge,"* she said.

Bazelon knows divorce can be miserable for some, but *"For unhappily married women who are able to support themselves and their children, breaking free can also be like plunging into a cold ocean: a shock to the system that is at once brutal and cleansing. They can emerge stronger and clearer-eyed. Their children benefit because happier mothers are better parents...I no longer think of divorce as shameful or feel sorry for people who tell me that they have decided to end their marriages. There are many ways a family can be broken. Sometimes, the healthiest decision is to remove the cracking shell of the nuclear family before the shards embed themselves in the precious little people nestled inside. My divorce spared my children that pain and let me live the life I was meant to. I view that as an accomplishment."*

Her article is truly disturbing. She elevates herself over her family, her career over her commitment to her spouse, and she presents marriage as a burden that holds her back in life. She also presents a common false choice: either she stays in the marriage and makes everyone miserable (including the kids) or she divorces. Jesus says there's a third choice: *"Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord...As the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her."* (Eph. 5:22-25)

I'm so grateful we have a Savior who doesn't view our marriage to Him as a burden; that He doesn't feel miserable because we don't let Him live the life He really wants to live, and that He doesn't think leaving us would be for our own good. Jesus doesn't care want radically love Himself; He radically loves others. To the married couples at PSD, please read this article as a warning for the way Satan can sink his hooks into your heart and bring you to a place where you think it's okay to love yourself more than your family. It happened to Lara, it's happened to people in my own family, and it can happen to you. *"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."* (1 Peter 5:8) - B.M.

Sunday Worship Services

9 a.m. Lord's Supper Service
9:45 a.m. Bible Class
10:45 a.m. Praise & Preaching

Wednesday Bible Classes 7:30 p.m.

Elders

Herb Hinely 407-339-4805
Jeff Hunt 407-739-5266
Joe Rimmer 407-414-7393
Dave Weaver 407-782-1112
Tim Welsh 407-670-8279

Deacons

Matt Hinely, Terry Petty
Erik Quist, Rory Salimbene
Jack Thomas, Emory VanCleeve

Evangelists

Brian Messerli 407-300-2517
Dwayne Gandy 214-724-5375



Hebrews 12:13-14

To face life's storms with _____, anchor your _____ in Christ

1. Personal _____ Talks

- *My identity is anchored to what I think of myself*
- **Problems:** A) How do you know you're _____? (1 Corinthians 4:3-4)
B) It downplays our _____ problem. (Luke 18:11; Hebrews 5:11-12)

2. People

- *My identity is anchored to what other people think of me*
- **Problems:** A) We'll sacrifice our real selves to be _____ (Gal. 1:10)
B) We won't be able to handle life when people _____ us (Hebrews 12:2-3)
- "If you live by compliments, you'll die by criticism."

3. Performance

- *My identity is anchored to my ability to win and succeed*
- **Problems:** A) The pressure not to _____ is overwhelming (Romans 7:14-25)
B) We can never do enough to feel secure (Romans 8:2-3)

4. Possessions

- *My identity is anchored to what I own*
- **Problems:** A) What if we lose our stuff? (Hebrews 10:34-35; 13:5)
B) What if we're _____ and can't afford much stuff? (Philippians 4:12-13)

Hebrews 13:8

He's the only anchor in life that never _____!

Who I am in Christ

I am loved (Rom. 1:7)	I am worth the price of Jesus' blood (1 Pet. 1:19)	I am a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19)	I can handle any circumstance (Phil. 4:13)
I am valuable (Matt. 6:26)	I am Jesus' friend (John 15:14)	I am a member of Christ's body (1 Cor. 12:27)	I am up to any task for God (2 Cor. 3:4)
I am Jesus' brother/sister (Heb. 2:12)	I am sinful and fall short of God's glory (Rom. 3:23)	I am chosen by God (Col. 3:12)	I am equipped for service (Eph. 4:12; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)
I reign with Christ now and forever (Rom. 5:17; Rev. 22:5)	I am sinful fully forgiven (Rom. 8:1)	I am adopted into God's family (Eph. 1:5)	I am able to resist Satan (James 4:7)
I am God's firstborn son/daughter (Heb. 12:5, 23)			I am able to escape temptation (1 Cor. 10:13)
			I am an heir of Heaven (Rev. 21:7)

Point: Real confidence to face trials comes from who Jesus is and who HE _____ WE ARE!

Discussion Questions for H2H

1. Can you give an example from your life when you tried to anchor your identity in any of the "4 P's" above and it didn't help?
2. How does it help you, on a practical level, to turn to Scripture and be reminded of who you are in Christ?
3. How can we use the concept of anchoring our identity in Christ evangelistically with friends, family, and/or coworkers?
4. If you, like the Hebrew Christians, are struggling to believe who you are in Christ, how can you restore that belief?

Announcements

Sunday, October 10, 2021

Please email all new announcements to announcements@psd.church.

MEMBER HEALTH ISSUES:

- **Jack Thomas** passed from this life last Sunday, October 3rd. His funeral will be held on Friday, October 22nd at the Baldwin Fairchild Funeral Home in Altamonte Springs. **Viewing:** 1:00 p.m. **Service:** 2:00 p.m. **Reception** at Joy's house afterward. His burial will be at the Garden of Memories in Tampa on Saturday, Oct. 23rd.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF PSD:

- **Dave Thomas** had successful surgery to remove the infection in his foot, but they had to remove his big toe. They have taken him off the ventilator and he's lightly sedated. He is able to follow directions but is not aware of his surroundings. He is improving but is still considered critical.
- **Mary-Ann Rubright's** friend **Gwen** has stage 4 cancer. She lives in TN.

TRAVELING:

- **Dwayne Gandy** will be Portage, Indiana for a gospel meeting from October 13-22nd.
- **Joy, Nancy, and Chloe** are in Delray Beach with Jennifer Thomas and plan to return this afternoon.
- **The Tokash family** will be out of town for two more weeks.
- **Matt and Amy Hinely and kids** are on a three-month family vacation. They will return on October 20th.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **H2H starts today!** Sign up sheets are in the back with plenty of open spots!
- **Rachel Gunn** will be taking new member photos after services on the porch today, October 17th, and October 24th.

SHUT-IN:

- **Anne Dickson, Geny Harrison, Peggy Hunt, Lynna Davis, Patsy Holt, and Pat Steele**

DATES TO NOTE:

Today	New H2H Session Begins, 6 weeks: October 10 - November 20th
Saturday, Oct. 16	Shepherds Meeting 9:00 a.m.
Sunday, Nov. 7	Time Change - Daylight Saving Time Ends
Saturday, Nov. 13	Bible class curriculum workshop: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 28	Deacons, Preachers, Shepherds Meeting - 2:30 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 2	New Quarter Begins for All Bible Classes
Sunday, January 16	H2H Training Session for Leaders & Hosts - 2:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 23	Next H2H Begins, 6 weeks: January 23 - March 5th
Fri. - Sun., April 1-3	Singing Workshop: "Be Thou My Vision" with Matt Dow



Coded Words for God Gave Moses His Laws

Each number stands for a letter of the alphabet. Write the correct letter in the blank to find the coded words and phrase.

Code key

A 1	J 10	S 19
B 2	K 11	T 20
C 3	L 12	U 21
D 4	M 13	V 22
E 5	N 14	W 23
F 6	O 15	X 24
G 7	P 16	Y 25
H 8	Q 17	Z 26
I 9	R 18	

12 1 23 19

8 15 14 15 18

5 7 25 16 20

20 1 2 12 5 20 19

19 1 2 2 1 20 8

PHRASE

“

11 5 5 6 13 25

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3 15 13 13 1 14 4 13 5 14 20 19

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 13:8 - *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”*