

Gospel Treason

What Happens When We Give Our Hearts to Idols **Identity, Roles, & Idols**

Aligns with Ch. 5 of *Gospel Treason* book
Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brian Fannin / Feb. 19, 2023

Your identity (how you see yourself and your purpose) will impact the topic of idolatry in your life. For how you view yourself and what makes you, you, will impact how you live your life.

When you trust Christ as your Savior, when you embrace the Gospel, you not only get forgiveness and a personal relationship with God, you get a whole new perspective on you – a new identity.

Identity is no small thing and if you get it wrong, the idol-manufacturing heart in you will wreak havoc on your spiritual life, on your relationships with people, how you view things, and how you process what really matters.

What do you say about who you are? What roles do you play and what is your identity? Do you see them as the same thing?

Exodus 3:1-12 “Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. . And Moses said, ‘I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.’ When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, ‘Moses, Moses!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ Then He said, ‘Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.’ And He said, ‘I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord said, ‘I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.’ But Moses said to God, ‘**Who am I** that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?’ He said, ‘But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.’”

Let’s examine how identity becomes a fundamental problem and the fundamental answer to the problem so you can live a more idol-free life:

I. The Fundamental Problem: Your Identity and Your Roles Get Confused.

You possess a God-defined identity. Unique in creation, you are human, made in the image of God and able to do things that no other created thing on the planet can do.

Roles should not feed your identity, but rather your identity should inform how you live out your roles.

Roles/places we look to define us and give us identity:

- Achievements
- Relationships
- Performance as a Christian

When the idol factory kicks on, the glory of God gets shrouded behind the other things that you want.

II. The Fundamental Answer: Live Fueled by Your Identity in Christ, Not the Roles You Play.

Live your life daily attuned to your identity in Christ, filtering all the roles you play and things you pursue through the freedom giving reality of belonging to God because of the Gospel.

Colossians 3:1-4 “If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek** the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **Set** your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”

Colossians 3:14-15 “And above all these **put on love**, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And **let the peace of Christ rule** in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. **And be thankful.**”

Exodus 3:11-12 “But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?’ He said, ‘But I will be with you...’”

When your roles and identity get confused, your life will be prone to the chaos of role performance, believing that is what makes you.