

Identity Part 5 “I am Sealed with the Spirit”

When I was in Italy this past spring, we spent the last day of the trip in Venice. –

A) Walking around seeing the sites and shopping.

B) I picked up something – just grabbed me –
Seal with -wax – RS

1) I wasn't sure if I would ever use it because – we rarely send letters anymore – But it was cool.

C) Nice shopping story PR – but what does that have to do with anything? – Our study tonight.

We are looking at our Spiritual DNA – OUR Identity in Christ

A) Focusing in on some of the 19 statements that Paul makes in the book of Ephesians – IN Christ / IN Him

B) Text tonight is once again we are in Ch. 1

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

C) Ephesians Ch.1 reveals to us the role that each member of the Godhead played in our Salvation

B) V. 4 The Father Chose us & adopted us into His family /

1) v.7 The Son redeemed us out of the slave market of sin – By shedding His Blood

D) V.13 After we trusted in the work of the Son – *we were SEALED w/ the HS of Promise*

What does it mean to be sealed with the Spirit?

A) Undoubtedly this is a reference to the ancient practice of sealing letters or other objects with wax

B) The seal is heated and then impressed upon the wax

C) That picture is what Paul is using for an analogy here in Ephesians 1 to describe our position IN Christ.

D) And The truth that IN Christ – we are sealed by the Holy spirit – Applies to our lives in at least 5 ways

#1 Finished transaction: Even today when legal documents are processed they are stamped with a seal to signify completion!

A.) So too when you exercised faith in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross to save you & pay the price for your sins - **You were sealed** –

B) That seal of God upon your life / His Spirit in your heart – signifying - Your Salvation is finished –

C) **Your salvation is complete there is no need to try and add to it! Or Improve upon it**

1) To try and do so only Ruins it!

Think of it this way: The most famous painting in the world today is **Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa.**

A) He started the painting in 1504 – finished in 1519

B) It took him 15 yrs to paint it – Today it is widely known as the most famous painting in the world.

C)What would we think if we saw a young elementary student with Markers on the Mona Lisa?

1)Started – Scribbling -

D)What are you doing ?– are you crazy?

1)She says “**I am improving the painting.**” So sad

You can't improve this – Masterpiece!

A)That is what it is like when we try to add to God's salvation by our works – efforts –

B)Like a k-5 trying to paint over the Mona Lisa with Markers or finger paints

1)We just mess it up – distort – {

C) Christianity **begins to look like something** it was never intended to look like! {Entirely different

This was the problem in Galatia

A)The Jewish believers were trying to tell the gentile converts – if really saved – circumcised

B)Big deal for full grown men living in a age with no **anesthesia**

C) **Paul got so upset** – Very graphic in his rebuke –

1)**Those who are telling you that I wish they would cut themselves off.**

D)Yes that means what you think it means and Yes that is in the Bible)

Listen there is nothing we can do or need to do to add to the work of Salvation.

A)Like a beautiful masterpiece we are to appreciate it – revere it and embrace it!

B)Your salvation has been sealed by the blood of Jesus Christ!

C)So the things that we do – our service – our obedience is not to earn salvation –

1)Not to add to our salvation –

D)**No it is the response of the person who appreciates** what Christ has done on our behalf.

E)So #1 The Holy Spirit in your heart signifies that your standing with God is Great – Finished

#2 Seal speaks of ownership - Goods on a Boat MARKED BY A SEAL

A)God has put His seal on us – He has marked us - because He purchased us as His own -**{Bought with a Price= The by blood the of Jesus**

B) The Sealing of the HS is God's stamp upon us, saying, *“You're mine. You belong to me.”*

C)You only put your seal on things that you care about and are important to you!

D)God's Spirit in our hearts is that – testimony to us – that we belong to God – Important to Him!

Paul put it this way in Romans 8:16 *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God*

A)**Sometimes we go through times where you don't necessarily feel like you're a Christian.**

B)Could be a Set back or a failure –

C)Sometimes we just **feel far from God.**- Don't feel his presence – Prayers – not penetrating the ceiling

1) **Anyone ever feel that way?**

D) We all go through those times -

1) My experience – yrs ago.

E) Walk by faith and not by sight. Or feelings

But God has done something in our hearts that is a constant sign that we belong to Him Gal 4:6 *And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'*

A) Abba = Daddy = Intimacy

B) When you experience that longing in your heart to be closer to God –

1) That is the Spirit inside of You – Crying Abba

C) Devotions weren't enough / **Retreat was wonderful** – but you desire more!

1) that is indication that you belong to God

Listen the Unbeliever doesn't long to be intimate w/ God

A) The unbeliever doesn't desire closeness to God

{ **Doesn't hunger & thirst for righteousness**

B) But when you sense that longing in your heart it is just a confirmation that you belong to God –

1) His Spirit is with in you!

C) He is stirring your heart to pursue a more intimate relationship with God.

1) Turn off the TV – take a Sabbath –

D) Listen to those promptings – it is the seal of the Holy Spirit in your heart! – **Usually means – Something special**

1) But The fact that you have them is evidence that you belong to God!

#3 A Seal speaks of being authentic: a seal on a letter was like a signature or - personal letter head - King's seal - Authentic

A) Even today If you get an official document of any sort, a government document, it has the seal of our government on it.

B) That authenticates it as valid. **If you have a U.S. passport?**

1) That is an official government document.

C) And it has the seal of the United States of America on it, if you are an American citizen and carry an American passport.

C) So what does that passport do? That authenticates you.

1) It confirms you as a citizen of this country.

Sometimes a seal is used in the context of art, or something that a person would create or make. Secret mark – besides signature

A) They put their seal on it. Signifying this is authentic. **This isn't a phony or a counterfeit –**

B) Now, just like we have counterfeit documents, we have counterfeit works of art, **we also have counterfeit believers.**

C) And you know how you know a true believer from a counterfeit?

1) You look for that authenticating mark of the Holy Spirit.

D) There are two undeniable marks of the HS

In John's gospel the Holy Spirit, is referred to as the Spirit of truth —

A) So a true Believer – is going to believe things and be speaking things that are true – **things that line up with the word of God .**

B) In the heart of a true believer the Spirit is there to point out error !!!

1) Have you ever heard something from someone – something struck you as off!

C) Even though you couldn't point to chapter & verse right then – sense – Not true

1) later you go home search the word – sure enough you find out – that was not a true statement or teaching – that was HERESY

D) Listen that is the HS in your heart – giving you discernment – that is not true!!! –

Now Probably the Biggest mark of the Spirit concerning a person's authenticity of being a Child of God is the Fruit of the Spirit in their lives

A) Jesus used the analogy of the Vine – John 15 – He is the vine we are the branches.

B) Fruit – **grapes in that analogy** is the natural result of being connected to the vine.

1) The branch receives life and nutrients from the Vine – the fruit that comes forth are grapes –

C) The vine doesn't produce – Apples!

So too – Jesus is the Vine – we are the branches

A) Abide in Him and his Word – produce fruit

B) Galatians 5 fruit of the Spirit – Love –

1) The rest are aspects of Love –

Joy is Loves rejoicing /

Peace is Loves Stability Opposite of Chaos & confusion

Longsuffering is Loves patience

Kindness is Loves Grace

Goodness is Loves Virtue

Faithfulness is loves Dependability

Gentleness is Loves Meekness

Self-Control – Loves Discipline

C) That is what the H.S. is seeking to do in our lives – Make us into people

1) That love unconditional / people who **give Sacrificially**

C) So the mark that your conversion is authentic is this over time – Fruit

1) you are going to become a more loving person.

D) You are going to become over time a more patient – more giving person.

1) **My Dad – Temper – Tenderness -**

#1 A speaks of a Finished transaction.

#2 A Seal speaks of ownership.

#3 A Seal speaks of being authentic.

#4 A Seal speaks of security and protection

A) When something was sealed it spoke of it being the personal property of a person or an organization and **it wasn't to be tampered with**

B) The seal of Rome on the tomb of Jesus

C) Well God has put His seal upon us, and that seal of the Spirit of God has secured us as the people of God.

1) And guess what? Satan can't tamper with us. He can't undo what God has done.

D) He can't actually do anything that God **doesn't allow Him to do.**

1) And the one thing God will not allow Him to do, is undo what He has already done. .

John 10: *"No one can snatch you out of my hand!"*

In Eph Ch. 4:30 Paul also talks about this Sealing of the Holy Spirit – makes the statement that we have been sealed for the day of Redemption

A) The day of redemption is the day of collection.

B) It's the day when God takes me to be w/ Him -It's the entering into the glorified state.

C) So when Paul says that **"we are sealed for the day of redemption."**

1) He is saying that God is going to keep us secure until He gets us to the place where He takes us and He glorifies us.

C) The Scriptures give us security They give us assurance and confidence that *He that He who has begun a good work in us is going to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.*

D) And when Paul talks about being sealed unto the day of redemption, you can't get around the implication of that.

1) What he's saying is, **"You're going to make it.**

E) God is going to get you to the desired destination, which is glory, which is heaven."

And so, that is also what he's talking about when he's talking about the fact that we are sealed.

A) Security / Protection - You are going to make it !!!!
No need to freak out -

Again think of it this way: On my wedding day – I was not nervous at all. - Sat. game of the week

A) I wasn't freaking out – Is Denise going to show?

B) I was secure of her love for me – I knew she was going to show up –

1) Couldn't wait to see her walking down aisle

C) But knowing that she loves – doesn't cause me to take my marriage vows lightly –

1) On the contrary – It makes me want to beef it up

D) I want a marriage that Thrives – if for no other reason – than this – She deserves that from me.

E) So too – knowing that I am secure in Christ – doesn't make me ease up on the gas peddle – cruise

1) It makes me want to run faster – harder

Paul put it this way: The Love of Christ compels me His love for me – not my love for Him!

#1 A speaks of a Finished transaction.

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#4 A Seal speaks of Security and Protection.

#5 A seal speaks of a guarantee. V.14

A) Paul says that God has given His HS as the Guarantee of our Inheritance

B) This same idea is presented for us in two other places in the NT - 2 Cor 1:22 / 2 Cor 5:5

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

“Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, 22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”

Turn 2 Corinthians 5 :1-5 { LOOKED LAST TIME

For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, 3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. 4 For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

C) The Seal of the Spirit given to us as a Guarantee speaks of 2 ideas

1) **Earnest money** - down payment or a promise note that I will pay-

D)I will deliver Spirit in us is our promissory note

E) God the Father is saying to us who are His Children – Heaven & Glory are waiting –

1Here is my Down Payment – Serious – Earnest money

Also -spirit as a guarantee -carries idea of engagement

A) When a young man is serious about a girl ready to pop the question he will break the bank to buy her an engagement ring!!!

B) Sell his surf board / sell his golf clubs / Brother & sister / what ever it takes to buy that ring

1) What He is communicating to her is I want you to spend the rest of your life w/ me & just so you know that I am serious – Here is a ring !!!

C) So that ring to him is signifying the seriousness of His Promise

1) Well God’s Spirit in our hearts signifies the seriousness of His Promise

New thought

But here is something else I want us to consider – To that girl that ring speaks of more than just the seriousness of a Promise

A) It is signifies to the world that she is taken/ She belongs to someone else {Single – pp

B) And so the HS in our hearts – signifies to the world – I am not available to you –

1)I belong to another – Take

C) But that ring on the finger of that young lady is also constant reminder of what is coming – No longer ALONE

D)That ring becomes the symbol of the longing that is in her heart – United to her lover

E)Especially if there is distance.

And it is a constant reminder that the discontentment she feels in her singleness is soon going to be Satisfied

A) Cold at night – warm body in that bed

B) Couple in the park that is her / Married girlfriends – she will be able to relate

C) So too God’s spirit in our hearts is a constant reminder concerning the Discontentment that we feel inside our hearts – about this place

1) God’s spirit in our hearts reminds us constantly – we were made for another

Listen When you experience discontentment in this life – this world – heart aches

**A)Or things can be great – great house, nice vacation
Job –whatever – but you feel discontent**

**B)The Devil wants you to think – You need a new spouse –
house – job –**

**1)Tries to use that discontentment as a distraction to get you
off center.**

**C)But often times it is the HS way of reminding you – you do
not belong to this world –**

1)You belong to God!

**When you recognize that – it makes all the difference in the
world – how you view life – possessions**

**A)Everything is seen through that filter – I belong to Him –
he has given me this – I am a Steward.**

**B)His Spirit is in my heart – crying out Abba father – stirring
me to intimacy with God.**

1)Reminding me – I belong to God – not to this world.

#1 A speaks of a Finished Transaction.

#2 A Seal speaks of Ownership.

#3 A Seal speaks of Being Authentic.

#4 A Seal speaks of Security and Protection.

#5 A Seal also stood for a Guarantee