

30 Identification For The Psychological Area of Life

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Identity for the Psychological Area

It is said that one's thought patterns reveals the person's functional identity. In proverbs 23:7 we find this:

For as he thinks within himself, so he is. He says to you, "Eat and drink!" But his heart is not with you. (Proverbs 23:7)

What we set our minds on unfolds our deepest confession. Our minds are a blessed gift given to us by our Faithful Father. If a person's way of thinking is changed or renewed, the person himself is changed. If the thinking is changed by human effort or by way of Christ within you, the results are still the same – change. Most self-proclaimed Christians give God the credit for any type of change that takes place in the mind of man. The Truth being said, unsaved people oftentimes have a better track record of changed behavior – this is why the field of psychology is so alluring. Changed behavior has never been the goal for our Lord but He clearly shows us that this is the starting place of the Indwelt Christians renewal. Man's goal in the people helping world is always "changed behavior" but in God's domain, the release of the Spirit is the overall objective of changing the way a person thinks. Once the release of the Spirit occurs, the mind of Christ is heard within the mortal for the strict purpose of God accomplishing His own will in and through the mind of the indwelt believer. If we put the focus on changed behavior, it makes it all about us but if we put the focus on releasing the mind of Christ within us – it puts the focus on the mission and message of the ONE who possesses our mortal and frail bodies.

It is of zero surprise that the belief system of "changed behavior" is a worldly objective and it shouldn't be a surprise to indwelt Christians that God's objective is always *transformation for revelation*.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)

If the focus of the exchanged life believer is on *transformation*, their lives become a proving ground for the will of God, thus confirming the goodness and perfection of God's will being released in the believer. As you can see, God puts His focus on His will being released in the mortal, whereas mankind puts his own focus on "changed behavior" for a healthier self-centered life.

When a person becomes a “born-again” believer, Christ takes the throne chair (so to speak) of that new convert. There is a common belief in the culture of exchanged life teachers that self is on the throne until the believer makes the exchange of putting Christ on the throne. I am not one of those teachers who support this. I believe that the conversion is the starting place of the exchanged life – because at salvation, Christ makes the exchange of putting the “old nature” to death and puts His life in exchange for our old self (Rom. 6:6). When this salvation takes place, Christ not only is placed on the throne of that person’s life – He never leaves that throne for any selfish reasons. I put the emphasis on the convert allowing “blockage” between the mind of man and the mind of Christ within that believer. The result of this blockage (fleshly patterns left behind by the old man) is man will function in their indwelt life by way of the own mind, will and emotions – that are trained like a dog to focus on “changed behavior.”

If this is true, the discipler must focus on releasing the Spirit within that believer and this is accomplished by addressing the “flesh patterns” within their minds that rise up against the knowledge of God. This is why I support the idea that God puts His emphasis on renewal of mind, the starting place of transformation.

Let’s face it, there are no scriptures that address renewal of emotions but this is the starting place of the world of psychology – people wanting change due to their “damaged emotions.” Emotions are not only NOT addressed in the scriptures – there rarely spoken of. God strongly implies the need for renewal of mind. The term emotion is manmade, when in reality emotions are our God given hormone system supporting what we believe. This is why the teachings of the exchanging life of Christ must be on the mind because once the mind is renewed, the will makes decisions based on that renewal and the “emotions” will be supportive of whatever the will chooses as life.

Since indwelt Christians live in the world, we tend to fall into the deception that the terminology of the world is the Heavenly Fathers dictionary. But, the truth is that we are called by the Life of Christ within us to rely upon His voice from within and I am pretty certain that Jesus does not bow down to the terms of man to communicate the mission and message of the will of His Father. I believe that this is the reason that the Spirit must utter words to the Father that cannot be understood by mankind. He takes our prayer words and re-words them in terms the Father will accept, not words taught by human wisdom but those ordained of the Father. Paul speaks to this in 1 Corinthians:

I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; (1 Corinthians 2:3-8)

God’s wisdom is a mystery by purpose – so that man cannot tap it unless he/she is indwelt by the Life of Christ. It is the only way! Any other wisdom is worldly, natural (supportive of old nature) and even demonic.

Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, and demonic. (James 3:13-15)

James is making an earth shattering statement here – he is saying that any wisdom that does not come down from Heaven, through the indwelling Holy Spirit, is and promotes evil.

For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. (James 3:16-18)

There are only two sources of wisdom (Intel), not three. Source one is through the mind of Christ. Source two is through the mind of Satan and the third source is made-up by man – man's own wisdom and intelligence through his own mind.

This is a deceived person who supports the third option and I know plenty of exchanged life teachers that not only support this weird wisdom but promote it. It is nothing more than a confession of friendship with the dictionary of man – the world. If you haven't done much reading on God's view of the world, allow me to give you the basics.

Those who practice the "third source of wisdom" make themselves enemies of God. Those who blend the unadulterated Truths of the Exchanged Life with this kind of wisdom, are mixing evil with the Holiness of the mind of Christ from within. Here is God's take on that:

You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (James 4:4)

James reminds us that friendship with the world, and its terminology/concepts, is hostility toward God. He concludes for us that anyone, indwelt or not, who desires to be friends with the world, sets themselves up as an enemy toward and of God. Paul too reminds us that the mind set on the flesh (trash left behind by the old nature) is hostile toward God.

For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (Romans 8:6-8)

The reason you see so much *living death* in and around the indwelt believer is due to the irresponsibility of the church, and its disciplers, who place the emphasis on "changed behavior." Our minds are not to be set on changing the things about us that are not us but rather on the release of the Spirit of Life, which results in His behavior being manifested through us. This is the honest reason why so many indwelt believers don't experience permanent change of character! James poses a question to us that tends to be overlooked by many believers:

Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"? (James 4:5)

Reality is this; our mind-set of blending worldly fables with the Life of Christ within us is NOT the answer. God is interested in maintaining an intimate relationship with the Spirit who He has made to dwell within us. When this is not our focus, we cause God to be jealous. It isn't about us or the changing of our behavior! Any living outside of releasing the Spirit to enjoy intimacy with the Father causes God to be hostile. Plain and simple! Our responsibility is to set our affections on things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father and by denying *blockage* that gets in the way of the Spirit having relationship with the Father through our mortal bodies.

So how are we to make this profound Truth applicable to our lives? The first thing we must do is not buy into the lie that man has the ability to change behavior. Secondly, we need to have a Spirit understanding that it is no longer the indwelt Christian who lives but Christ who lives within them. The reality of this note is that the mind of Christ actually dwells within us.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (Philippians 2:5 KJV)

It has nothing to do with our minds but only to embrace the reality of Christ's mind being manifested within us – in our minds. Renewal of mind is this exchange. We consider our thoughts not to be His thoughts and our ways not to be His. He actually has the ability to think through us. As complex and impossible as this sounds – it is the answer to all of life. Allow me to explain.

My life discipleship passage is this:

For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM." For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. (1 Corinthians 2:2-13)

My daily goal is actually to know nothing in my mind that is outside of the fact that Jesus Christ actually lives in me and to embrace the experiential truth contained in my co-crucifixion with Him (Gal. 2:20). When I preach, teach and disciple others, He is quick to remind me that the Father has chosen to leave my mental weakness and fear of failing in place so that the message I desire to communicate are not of persuasive words of demonic wisdom of men but rather through the release of the Spirit within me in order for Christ to demonstrate the power of His

Father. This focus keeps me in tact with my inabilities for His abilities to shine forth in frailty. I am also reminded often that only mature indwelt believers understand this process and those who do the sin of blending worldly fables with Christ in them, well to that I say – emergence! This is the truest definition of the emergent church, those who professionally blend worldly terminology and concepts with the supposed mind of Christ within them, which is actually re-crucifying Christ daily. Those who practice such deceptions, in my view, most likely are not truly indwelt.

I desire to disciple, preach or write by making use of God’s wisdom, a hidden wisdom that can only be tapped through the mind of Christ in me as a believer. I am a firm in belief that it is God who reveals the disciple through the Spirit – not me. I know that the Spirit is searching out the blockage in the disciple in order to remove their blockage, which releases the Spirit to function in a supernatural relationship with the Father. How does He do this? Easy, since the Spirit is the actual data-gatherer and counselor, I can rest assured that He living in me will freely give to me the data that needs to be approached. He does this through spiritual thoughts placed within my weak and frail mind in order to have spiritual words (Words of the Spirit) delivered to the disciple. This requires me as the discipler to be in constant contact with Christ in me – without this, my “counseling” or discipleship is promoting hostility toward God.

I know that I know that the Scriptures describe the “identified” discipler as having a trusting, peaceful mind (Isaiah 26:3), an eager, willing mind (Acts 17:11), a humble mind (Philippians 2:3), a sound stable mind (2 Timothy 1:7;2), a disciplined mind (1 Peter 1:13) a purposeful mind (James 1:7-8; 4:8) – all through the indwelling mind of Christ. Now that makes you and me a competent discipler in Christ Jesus.

A “renewed mind” obviously, then, means a changed worldview, changed mind-set, changed beliefs, changed expectations, changed objectives in life and changed desires. Why? Because He will reveal in the renewal His attributes handed to Him by HIS Father.

Here is a practical list of helps if you are lead to disciple another in renewed mind:

1. Make sure the disciple is giving you 100% release to minister to them. Anything short of 100% will allow a “way out” from facing their depraved morbid flesh patterns.
2. Give the Holy Spirit the prerogative to search their mind, ask supernatural questions that provoke confession and use the data given to you by the Spirit within you to reveal their flesh patterns that rise up against the knowledge of God.
3. Allow the Spirit in you to probe the points of most resistance – write them down.
4. Make special notes on reconciled relationships and rejection sensitivities.
5. Lead the disciple into repentance with our Lord, confessing all blockage as sin before God. After they confess sin, have them confess their releasing of the Spirit within them.
6. Show them how renewal of mind requires an appropriation of identification in Christ. Give them a teaching on their identity in Christ. Explain how these road blocks block the application of identification.
7. Apply these truths to their daily living (issues).

Application is the evidence of transformation, as long as it is in and through Christ. A transformed life is never confused with a life of “changed behavior.” With self-effort change, you have short-term revisionism and with transformation, you have long-term character change.

This is because the very character and Nature of Christ is what is proven through the life of the believer.