

Week 2: Sure Foundation (part 2)

Romans 1:21-23

21 For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Because we believe lies about God, we also believe lies about _____

Many people don't know how to distinguish what they _____ & _____ from what they actually believe

We need to deal with the sinful beliefs (ROOT) that produce sinful behaviors (FRUIT)

IDENTITY IDOLS

Because of our _____, _____, our natural tendency is identity idols

Romans 1:25

25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Take a moment to think about your own life. What things (other than Christ) have you looked to in the past, or have the tendency to look to now, to define you? Use the space below to write some of those down.

IDENTITY I.D.O.L.S.

I = _____

- What we own is our way of expressing our desired identity
- Consumerism is essentially the American religion
- We buy things we don't need, with money we don't have, to impress people we don't know
- If we don't have the "latest and the greatest" then we believe it devalues us

D = _____

- Life is filled with duties; that can rightly be a way we worship God or wrongly be a god we worship
- They become a search for something to outperform others and demonstrate our superiority
- Winning is all that matters
- When we don't win it leads to depression and devastation

O = _____

- God made us for community and friendship; this can be a good thing or a god thing
- Our identity is wrapped up in our "tribe," and the members can be based on family, school, sports, team, race, gender, culture, income level, hobby, political party, sexual orientation, etc.
- We will change our appearance and behavior depending on whom we are seeking to impress
- Leads to using people to fulfill our need to belong, be liked, and be desired more than actually loving people

L = _____

- When our lives become consumed with the thought that “tomorrow might be better” we are governed by our feelings and what the future holds rather than living in the present
- Our hope and identity is wrapped up in physical healing, getting married, having children, professional achievement, financial security, reaching the next season of life, etc.
- Our joy is dependent on what tomorrow holds rather than who we are in Christ today

S = _____

- Suffering is a reality in a sinful, fallen world (physically, emotionally, financially, mentally, relationally, spiritually)
- When we suffer, we can easily allow our hurt to become our identity
- Our worst day, greatest suffering, and deepest loss can so mark our life that it becomes our identity
- Our suffering may help explain us, but they don’t define us

Take time around your table to discuss this topic of identity I.D.O.L.S. using the following questions:

- 1) Were there any of these “identity idols” categories that you had not considered as places you could mistakenly look for identity?
- 2) Is there a particular “identity idols” category that is a bigger struggle for you than others?
- 3) How could being aware of this list of “identity idols” help you guard against looking to the wrong things to find your identity?

THINKING ABOUT IDENTITY

When we think about identity, we often think in terms of _____

(Focus is on ME)

Scripture teaches us to think about identity in terms of _____

(Focus is on JESUS)

Our identity determines our _____

The worst place to begin constructing an identity is with _____

The best place to begin constructing an identity is with _____

We live _____ our identity, not _____ our identity

We are defined by who we are _____ Christ, not what we do or fail to do _____ Christ

REMEMBER OUR 4 GOSPEL FORMING QUESTIONS

- 1) Who is God?
- 2) What has God done?
- 3) Who am I in light of God's work?
- 4) How should I live in light of who I am?

4 QUESTIONS THAT HELP US DISCERN IF WE ARE APPLYING THE GOSPEL TO OUR EVERYDAY LIVES

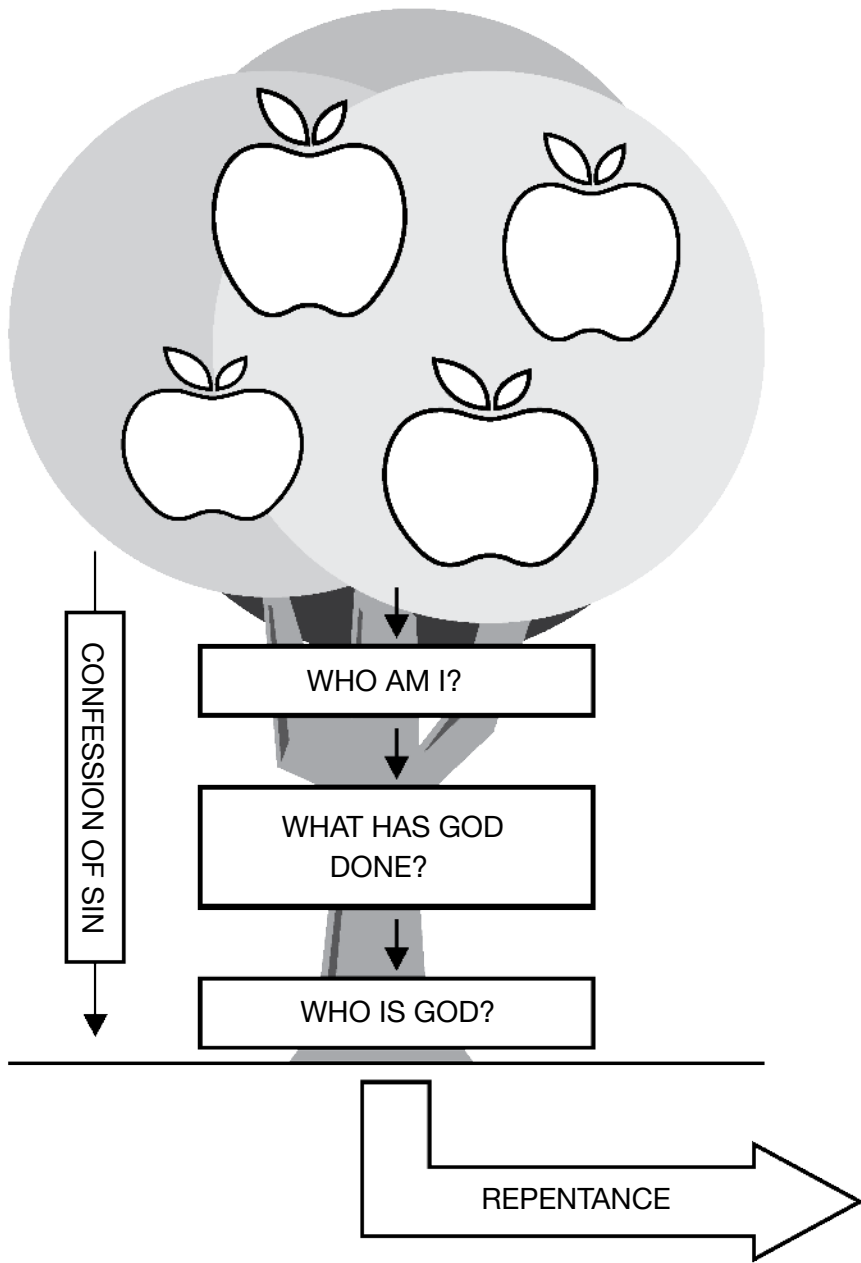
- 1) What am I doing or experiencing right now?
- 2) In light of what I am doing or experiencing, what do I believe about myself?
- 3) What do I believe God is doing or has done?
- 4) What do I believe God is like?

FRUIT OF MY LIFE

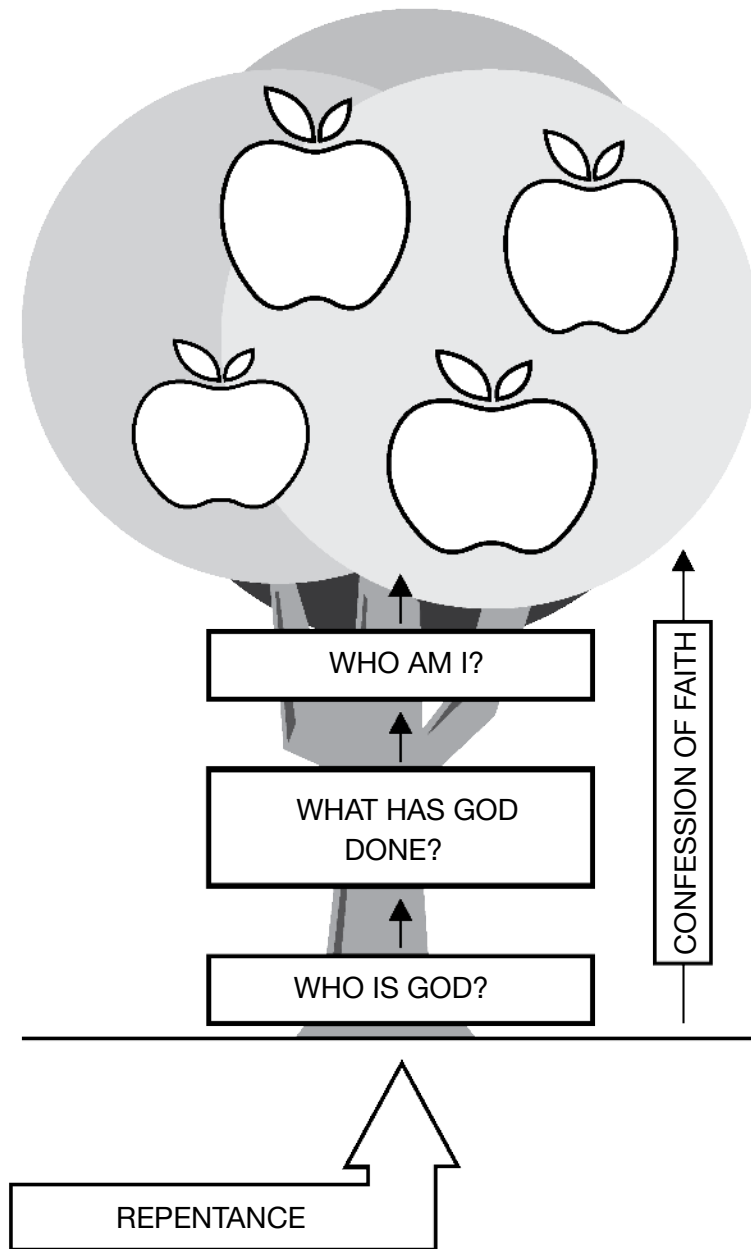
WHO IS GOD?

WHO AM I?

WHAT HAS GOD DONE?



FLESH



SPIRIT

