



MLCPC 107:

Searching for Significance: Self-identity vs. God-identity

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Abstract

This session will discuss the different false beliefs that women in crisis pregnancy situations may be facing. Dr. Scalise provides Scriptural insights on how we all can be sure of our worth in God and will compare our present suffering to that which Jesus experienced. Coaches will learn how to convey these biblical principles to their crisis pregnancy clients.

Learning Objectives

1. Participants will explore the difference between self-worth and God-worth.
2. Participants will discover the greatest fears client's may be facing.
3. Participants will apply God's solutions to the false beliefs we hold.

I. Self-worth Versus God-worth¹

A. The Fear of Exposure

1. Results from the fall.

“Then the Lord God called to the man and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ And he said, ‘I heard the sound of Thee in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.’” — Genesis 3:9-10

B. Two Basic Equations for Self-worth

1. The World’s definition:

- **SW = MP + OO**

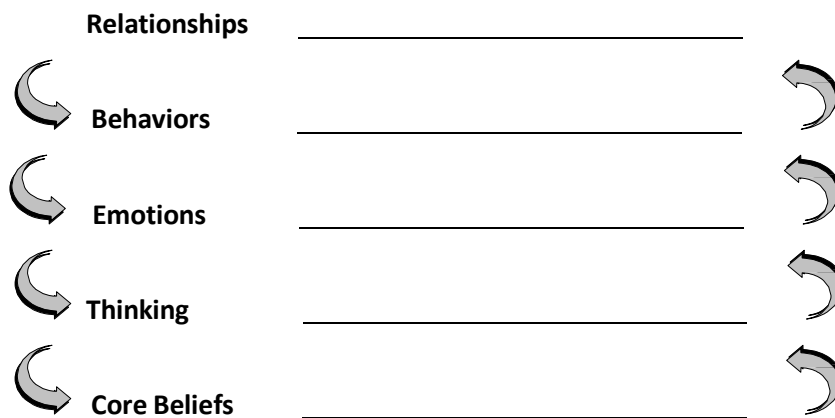
“They exchanged God’s truth for a lie.” — Romans 1:25

2. God’s definition:

- **SW = GTS**

“The truth will make you free.” — John 8:31

C. Getting to the root causes:



II. **False Belief #1: I must meet certain standards in order to feel okay about myself.**

A. **Fear:** The dark room that develops all my negatives.

B. Our greatest fear is the fear of **Failure**.

1. Guilt

2. Anger and resentment

3. Perfectionism

4. Avoiding risks

C. **Person versus Performance:** God drives a **wedge** between our **person** and our **performance**.

“For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet as through fire.”

— **1 Corinthians 3:11-15**

D. God's Solution: The Doctrine of Justification

"For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even die. But God demonstrated His own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." — Romans 5:6-8

"For once we were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." — Titus 3:3-7

1. Because of Christ's redemptive work on the cross, we are complete in Him and fully pleasing.
2. The nature of a gift

"For the wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." — Romans 6:23

"For by the grace of God you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast," — Ephesians 2:8-9

III. False Belief #2: I must have the approval of certain others in order to feel okay about myself.

A. Our greatest fear is Rejection.

1. Shame

2. People pleasing

3. Withdrawal and isolation

4. Codependency

B. The Value of a Soul

“No man can by any means redeem his brother, or give to God a ransom for him. For the redemption of his soul is costly and he should cease trying forever, that he should live on eternally; that he should not undergo decay.” — Psalm 49:7-9

1. The Pearl of Great Price

“The kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all he had and bought it.” — Matthew 13:45-46

2. “You have been bought with a price” — 1 Corinthians 6:20

C. God's Solution: The Doctrine of Reconciliation

"For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

— Colossians 1:13-14

"For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of the cross, through Him, I say, whether things made on earth or things in heaven. And although you were formally alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach." — **Colossians 1:19-22**

"Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who were formally far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." — **Ephesians 2:12-13**

1. Because of Christ's redemptive work on the cross, He has reconciled us back to the Father. He has bridged the gap and we are therefore approved by God.
2. We are **accepted** and **acceptable**.

IV. False Belief #3: Those who fail are unworthy of love and deserve to be punished.

A. Our greatest fear is **Condemnation.**

1. Self-condemnation

2. The Blame Game

3. Self-induced punishment

4. Bitterness and unforgiveness

B. Condemnation and Punishment versus Conviction and Discipline:

“There is now therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

— **Romans 8:1**

“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out all fear because fear involves punishment and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love because He first loved us.” — 1 John 4:18-19

<u>Condemnation & Punishment</u>	<u>Conviction & Discipline</u>
Directed toward the unbeliever	Directed toward the believer
Focus is on the person	Focus is on the behavior
Motivated out of anger	Motivated out of love
Involves fear, rejection, and isolation	Involves acceptance and affirmation
Leaves no way out	Freedom through forgiveness
Comes from Satan to kill and destroy	Comes from the Holy Spirit to help & guide
Leads to depression and more sin	Leads to repentance and changed behavior

C. God's Solution: The Doctrine of Propitiation

"Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastising of our wellbeing fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each one has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him."—**Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-11**

"In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be a propitiation for our sins."—**1 John 4:10**

"And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us and He has taken it out of the way having nailed it to a cross."
— **Colossians 2:13**

1. Because of Christ's redemptive work on the cross we are **deeply loved** and **completely forgiven**.

V. False Belief #4: I am what I am; I cannot change; I'm hopeless.

A. Our greatest fear is that No One Understands.

1. Feeling alone

2. Hopelessness

3. Isolation and withdrawal

4. Self-pity and inferiority

B. God really does understand.

“Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need.”—Hebrews 4:14-16

1. Jesus, in His own humanity, experienced everything we have and therefore knows exactly what to give us and exactly when we need it:

- Weariness
- Hunger and thirst
- Misunderstanding
- Rejection and hate
- Betrayal
- Abandonment
- Loneliness
- Sorrow and grief
- Abuse and physical pain
- Separation
- Brokenness

C. God's Solution: The Doctrine of Regeneration

"Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things have passed away, behold new things have come." — 2 Corinthians 5:17

"And in Him you have been made complete." — Colossians 2:10

1. Because of Christ's redemptive work on the cross, we have been made brand new and complete in Him.

Endnotes

¹Adapted from *The Search For Significance* by Robert McGee, Word Publishing: Houston, Texas, 1985, 1996, 2002.