



Part 3: What's In Your Wallet?  
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**The truth about “me” from Genesis 1 and 2:**

I was created in the image of God, uniquely and intentionally,  
for the purpose of glorifying Jesus in everything I do.  
The fingerprints of God are on my soul.

**Proven Ways to Protect Your Identity**

**Deter**

**Detect**

**Defend**

**DETER the enemy by knowing your new identity in Christ Jesus**

A sinner	<u>Saved by grace</u>
Dead in sin	<u>Alive to Christ</u>
A slave	But <u>set free</u>
Released	Into a <u>whole new</u> relationship
Struggling	But <u>never alone</u>

*Additional scriptures on spiritual identity:*

Romans 5:1; Romans 8:1-2, 28; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 1:3-8;  
Colossians 1:13-14; Philippians 1:6; Philippians 4:13; 1 John 5:18; Ephesians 2:10

**Paul shares our struggle with the old identity (Romans 7)**

But I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. (verse 14)

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate, I do. (vs. 15)

I know that nothing good lives in me... (vs. 18)

For I have the desire to do what is good but I cannot carry it out. (vs. 18)

So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. (vs. 21)

...but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. (vs. 23)

## **DETECT the fuel that reignites your old nature:**

*Predictable patterns, known weaknesses, sin triggers, dwelling on past mistakes*

**The Old:** <sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. <sup>8</sup> But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. <sup>11</sup> Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. – Colossians 3:5-11

## **DEFEND your identity with the proper fuel for your new nature**

*Worship, prayer, serving, giving, reading the Bible, spiritual disciplines*

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. – Colossians 3:12-14

## **Paul makes a statement and asks a question:**

What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?" – Romans 7:24

## **DEFEND yourself with the proper answer to Paul's question:**

Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! – Romans 7:24-25

### **The Answer: Jesus**

## **Small Group Questions**

- 1) What's in your wallet right now? What do the contents say about you?
- 2) Have you ever been a victim of identity theft? What happened?
- 3) Read Romans 7. It's a tough passage, but how does Paul's struggle with sin encourage you in your own battle? Do you find any keys to winning?
- 4) Read Colossians 3:5-11. What are some areas of your old life that had to come off because of your new identity? Read Colossians 3:12-14. What are some new areas that Jesus is perfecting in you right now?
- 5) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?