

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP . GROW . SERVE .

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 691

August 10, 2022

“Where Is Your Identity Found?”

Christine was beautiful and she knew it, played it, used it to get what she wanted. Many of the other girls in high school looked down on her, even made fun of her and jokes about her. The guys, on the other hand, enjoyed the attention Christine gave them and her openness to have sex with any of them.

The back story on Christine. She was brought up in a home with her mom and stepdad. Her stepdad had an older son from a previous marriage that lived in the home. You probably already know where the story goes. This step-brother sexually abuse Christine as she was younger. She now felt her worth, her identity, was only found in sex. Because of that openness and her beauty, she could garner attention from just about any male, not just high school boys.

But something happened to change that. God was at work in two people's lives, though they did not know it. A new kid came to their high school his senior year. Josh was a nice looking, tall, well built young man and, of course, this was a challenge to Christine to “get him” before any of the other girls had a chance. He had noticed her in one of his classes and as she began to talk to him at his locker between classes, they decided they would get supper together on Friday night before the football game. Christine made her move as they got back in the car after supper, but Josh was different. He pushed her away, to her surprise. That had never ever happened before to her. Everyone had been receptive to her advances.

To make a long story shorter, Josh befriended Christine. He shared with her that Jesus was his source of identity and that everything ran through his relationship with Jesus as his Lord. She had never been exposed to anyone like Josh, much less someone who loved and shared Jesus. Her life began to change. God used Josh to bring Christine to HIM. And as the Holy Spirit began to work in her, calling her to Himself, the walls began to breakdown. The heartache, lack of self-worth began to change. And without pushing, one night she asked Josh how she could have what he had in Jesus.

Folks, we talk about how the Holy Spirit will move in a persons life in church. We talk about how God will use us, as Believers, to share this Good News of Jesus, but I'm not sure that that belief always leaves the church with us. I read a few verses in my sermon this past Sunday from Colossians chapter 3. Chapter 3 is a reminder of where our identity is found and how we are to live and share love in unity as we live in this dark world. PLEASE read these 17 verses slowly and take in all the Apostle Paul is writing as inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 3:1 - 17

Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. 5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to

idolatry. 6 For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, 7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, 10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him— 11 a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. 14 Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

WOW!!! So much here. Several sermons and teachings! The call to us all, as Believers, is to do as a young man named Josh had done, surrender ourselves to Jesus and make sure our identity is found in Jesus and no one or nothing else. If our identity is found in ourselves, in others, in sex, or our beauty or anything else, we need to stop and check ourselves. God's call is to surrender ALL to Him.

Was it easy for Christine? No! But the new immature Christian began to grow and began to read God's Word and began to surround herself with people like Josh and her life in Jesus began to grow and flourish. She became solid in her faith and she found her identity in Jesus and no one or nothing else.

Where is your identity found? In your children? In your spouse? In your work? In yourself? Or is your identity found in Jesus? There is a huge difference in how you answer that question.

I'll leave it there for now. Thank you Jesus for working in Josh and Christine's lives. Thank you Jesus for working in ours. May the Lord be praised.

Blessings to you all,
Pastor Marty - HOPE Church Raleigh
Worship . Grow . Serve

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, August 10

Wednesday Night Devotion & Prayer
@ 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 11

No Worship Team Practice

Saturday, August 13

Women of HOPE @ 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 14

Worship Team Practice @ 8:30 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.

Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.

Session Meeting @ 12:00 p.m.

Monday, August 15

Staff Meeting @ 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, August 16

Men of HOPE @ 7:00 p.m.

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship Food - August 14

Church Will Provide

Soundboard - August 14

Sherif Mikhael

Communion Steward - August

Terry Duffell

Greeter - August 14

Volunteer Needed

Volunteer for the Nursery - Aug. 14

Terry Duffell

This Sunday
Scripture Text and Sermon

Romans 14:1 - 12
"The Dance of Law and Grace"



Outreach Ministries

"Food of the Month"

for the Raleigh Dream Center Food
Pantry **Boxed Cereal**
We have a collection bin in the foyer

Meal Ministry

**Take a meal from the freezer if
needed for you or someone else.**

There is a sign-up sheet on the
bulletin board to help prepare meals
for others.

See Christina Johnston
with questions.

**TLC Devotion Returns in
September**

Spiritual Growth Ministries

Sunday School

This Sunday for all ages

**Wednesday Night Devotion &
Prayer Tonight @ 7:00 p.m.**

(Zoom Link available for those who
cannot meet in person)

WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, August 13
@ 1:00 p.m. meeting at the church

MEN of HOPE

Tuesday, August 16 at 7 p.m.
A ZOOM link for the meeting will
be sent out beforehand.
Join us!

Quote of the Week

**"The distinguishing mark of a
Christian is his confidence in
the love of Christ."**

Charles H. Spurgeon

Prayer Requests:

Covid -19, Mark Drylie, Chandi Haswell &
family, Revill & Mary Lane Mallory, Evelyn
Doby, Jamie Baldwin, Donna Williams,
Diane Williams, Renee Logan, Loretta
(Sandi Underwood's daughter), Joan
Summers, Jordan & Cinnamon (son and
daughter of Lynn Joyner's family
members), Tommy Lanphere (Lynn
Joyner's brother), Becky Hale's mom in
Wyoming, Gene & Becky Hale, The Baker
family, Dave & Dot Geil, Joy Forrest's
daughter Haley, Carlyle and Cynthia
Franklin (Sandra Pierce's dad and
stepmom), Brian Adam's dad, our Military,
our Missionaries, our Nation, and the
world. If you have those you would like
added to our prayer concerns, please
email me those names.

The Computer Lab Simple Technology Assistant

HELP Wanted

Please go to our website
and read the information on
serving in The Saturday
Computer Lab. There is a
form there to fill out if
interested. We need 6 to 8
volunteers when we
resume in September to
fulfill this outreach ministry
of HOPE Church Raleigh

**Next Session Meeting
This Sunday, August 14
@ 12 p.m.**

HOPE Church Raleigh

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

4911 Green Rd

Raleigh, NC 27616

919-508-6827

Worship Time: 9:30 AM

www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org

www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh

Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh

**YouTube.com (type "HOPE Church Raleigh"
in the search box)**

Daily Devotions

For This Coming Week

Aug 14	2 Samuel	13
Aug 15	2 Samuel	14
Aug 16	2 Samuel	15
Aug 17	2 Samuel	16
Aug 18	2 Samuel	17
Aug 19	2 Samuel	18
Aug 20	2 Samuel	19