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**Message Title:** The Identity Trap

**Book Content, “At the Crossroads”:** Chapters twelve and thirteen

**This weeks memory challenge: 2 Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

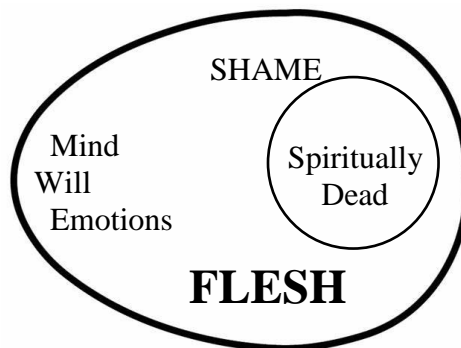
— — — — — ♪ Message Notes ♪ — — — — —

† All of our false beliefs so far- *pain avoidance, the expectation treadmill, trying to meet our own core needs, and our demand for personal justice that leads being judgmental-* all of these are rooted in our foundational human need to create, sustain, and defend our sense of SELF. Put another way, virtually every false belief that holds us hostage has its roots in the matter of IDENTITY.  
*Matthew 7:24-27*

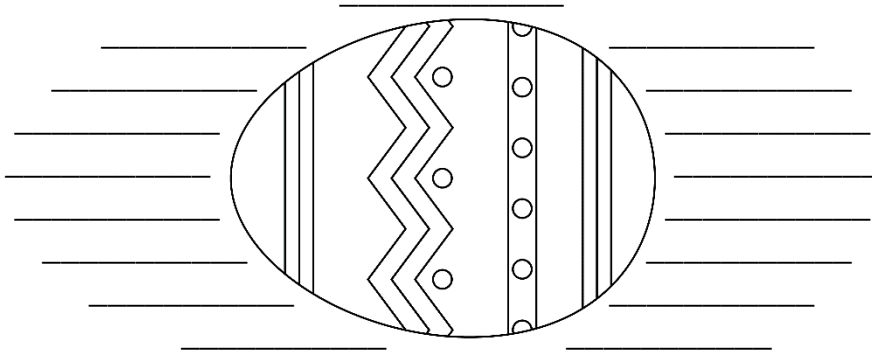
- Who I am = What I DO
- Who I am = What I DID
- Who I am = What was DONE to me
- Who I am = What was SAID to me
- Who I am = What I do + the AFFIRMATION of others

† Reality: This source of identity always falls short, leading to one of the most common, most intense, and most private human emotion: SHAME.

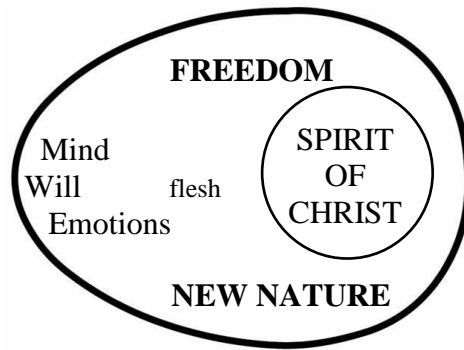
† Our first identity, the identity of our FLESH  
*Ephesians 2:1-3*



† Our second identity, the identity of EXTERNALS  
*Philippians 3:7-9*



† Our true identity, our New Nature in Christ  
*Matthew 16:24-26*  
*2 Corinthians 5:17*  
*Romans 5:1-5*



Positive externals no longer source of identity, rather expressed for God's Glory

Negative externals lose role of identity, allowing us to release them to God

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**GO DEEPER!** Reference notes and the audio of today's message is available at [www.trinityvail.com/sermons](http://www.trinityvail.com/sermons). Weekly message audio is also available through various podcast apps on both your iPhone and Android devices. Just search for "Trinity Vail Valley Ethan". This message series is based on the book "At the Crossroads" by Pete Kuiper.