

**"DON'T BE PERCEIVED AS WEAK":**

**Lies of Shame and Genuineness**

**Psalm 139: 13-16**

*<sup>13</sup> For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb.<sup>14</sup> I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.*

*<sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; <sup>16</sup> Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them.*

**I. The Shackles and Cycles of Shame**

**A. How God Made Us**

YOU ARE LOVED, AND YOU ARE FEARFULLY,  
WONDERFULLY, AND PERFECTLY MADE,  
SO BE YOURSELF!

1. We all know this in our mind,
2. But we struggle to believe it in our heart!

**B. The Lies of Shame**

1. We experience guilt for the wrongs we make,  
But when we internalize SHAME, it's an attack on WHO WE ARE
2. Guilt says: "I'm sorry, I made a mistake"  
Shame says: "I'm sorry, I AM a mistake"
3. When we look in the mirror, we don't like what we see,  
then the king of lies begins to whisper in our ear:
  - you are a failure
  - you have no will power
  - you have messed up too badly
  - if people really knew you, they wouldn't like you, and definitely wouldn't love you

### **C. The Cycle of Shame and Identity Management**

1. Immersing ourselves in trying to control how others perceive us chains us to a life of saying:

**"If I \_\_\_\_\_ , then they will think \_\_\_\_\_ .**

2. We search for love, power, and respect from illegitimate sources found in this world

3. We always come up short and are never satisfied... leaving us to restart the cycle of shame

## **II. Zaccheus and His Search for Love and Power**

### **A. An Unfulfilled Life**

**Luke 19:1-4**

*"...he was a chief tax collector and he was rich. Zaccheus was trying to see who Jesus was..."*

### **B. An Encounter with Jesus**

**Luke 19:5-6**

*"He looked up and said to him, "Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house"*

### **C. A Grumbling Crowd**

**Luke 19:7**

*"...they all began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner""*

### **D. A Life Changed**

**Luke 19:8-10**

*"Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor..."*

## **III. Our Identity Found in Christ**

### **A. A Life Filled with Confidence ("You are Special" by Max Lucado)**

1. Don't let others define you
2. Receive your identity from Jesus
3. Trust more in what HE thinks than what THEY think
4. Spend time with your Creator

### **B. A Life Filled with Praise, Glory, and Honor**

**1 Peter 1:7**

*"These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."*

### **C. A Life Filled with Christ Overflows**

**Colossians 2:7**

*"...having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude."*

### **D. A Genuine Faith...**

1. is Attractive to Others
2. is Glorifying to God
3. Is Our Greatest Tool to Share the Gospel