

Orphan Mentality—School of Prayer

Original Design:

Genesis 1:26-28	Only aspect of creation designed to bear/display the image and likeness Of God
Hebrews 1:3	Jesus came to model for us what this identity was to look like
Ephesians 4:22-24	lay aside old self/put on new

Imprinting:

Imprinting refers to a critical period of time early in an animal's life when it forms attachments and develops a concept of its own identity. Birds and mammals are born with a pre-programmed drive to imprint onto their mother. Imprinting provides animals with information about who they are and determines who they will find attractive when they reach adulthood.

Left to ourselves—after the fall of man—apart from the Lord (whose image and likeness we are to bear)—we began to form our own identities within our limited environment (imprint on lesser loves). Apart from Him—we are conformed to the world (deformed—contorted—marred—distorted—void).

Identity is Acquired in Relationship:

John 13:1-4 Jesus knew who He was—so He did what He did

What is an Orphan:

- An orphan is someone whose parents have died, are unknown, or have permanently abandoned them. They are bereft of parents through death, disappearance, abandonment or desertion of, or separation or loss of parents.
- They view themselves through the lens of 'being alone'.
- They are in the role of being their own protector, provider and parent. (Don't know where their next meal is coming from, no one to be their security, no one to give leadership)-----leads to deep fear and anxiety
- Very limited understanding of their true identity
- Unfamiliar with an environment where they are nurtured, loved and valued for who they are—rather than what they do.

Symptoms of an Orphan Mentality

- Performance driven—in order to be received. Includes striving to make a place for themselves. (I need to be funnier, smarter, quicker, enduring----than anyone else)
- Independent—difficult time sensing they 'belong'. Can be in a large group, yet struggle with a deep, overwhelming, loneliness
- Love is conditional (must give in order to get)
- A sense of abandonment, loneliness, alienation, and isolation
- Struggle with knowing and believing God loves them (I John 4:16-19). Tend to believe they are alienated from God.
- In marriages—difficulty with intimacy with spouse
- In workplace—struggle with those in authority
- In church—can live within the context of the Body—without meaningful connection. They serve in order to gain an identity, and/or in order to be loved.
- Tend to view acquisition, achievement or control as their means of gaining an identity
- Driven by a search for significance/importance
- Jealousy and envy (others have what you want)
- Defensive (no one will stand up for me)
- Fear based relating

Finding our way Home

- God relates to us as 'sons'—Romans 8:14-17
- Must learn to trust again. In order to do so—must deal with many deceptions we have adopted.
- Confession: Confess the state of your heart and invite the work of the Spirit to renew a right spirit within you.
- Forgiveness: Betrayal, rejection, and abandonment leave deep wounds that must be addressed and healed. (Necessary to deal with wound, infection, and limp/survival skills.
- In community:
Ephesians 3:17-19—requires community to uncover the whole of love
I Timothy 5:1-2—the need for spiritual family
God is community---we must learn our identity in that context
- Father Assignment