

## Our ID in Christ (12): Beware of the False IDs!

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### <2 Peter 2:1~14, ESV>

1 But **false prophets also arose among the people**, just as there will be **false teachers among you**, who will **secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.**

2 And many will follow **their sensuality**, and because of them **the way of truth will be blasphemed.**

3 And in their greed, they will **exploit you with false words**. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;

5 if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of **the ungodly**;

6 if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen **to the ungodly**;

7 and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by **the sensual conduct of the wicked**

8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, **he was tormenting his righteous soul** over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard);

9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,

10 and especially **those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.**

**Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones,**

11 whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord.

12 But these, **like irrational animals**, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction,

13 suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you.

14 They have **eyes full of adultery**, insatiable for **sin**. **They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed.** Accursed children!

## [Introduction]

Hallelujah!

We continue meditating on **our IDs** through the Word in 2 Peter. Now, we are reflecting on the identities that the elderly Apostle Peter, sensing that his time on this earth was ending, has left for us.

There are only two chapters left in 2 Peter as of today. And in these few remaining pages, our Apostle Peter dedicates much of **his message to a warning: Beware of false!**

Shall we read verse 1 together? Begin!

### \* **Our ID in Christ: Beware of the False IDs!**

1 But **false prophets** also arose among the people, just as there will be **false teachers among you**, who will **secretly bring in destructive heresies**, even denying the Master who bought them, **bringing upon themselves swift destruction.**

=> (1) **Falsehood vs. Truth** (Truth, the Word of God in Scripture)

(2) **Falsehood vs. Faithfulness** (Faithfulness, a sincere life)

**Falsehood!** In the Old Testament, the term is "sheqer", and in the New Testament, it is "pseudos". In any case, just as false prophets arose among the people of Israel in the past, the Word tells us that similarly, there will be false teachers among you now. This "**falsehood**" has always existed in the past, continues to exist now, and will persist in the future! Looking at verse 1, we see a characteristic: "They secretly introduce **destructive heresies.**"

The term "heresy" today generally refers to people with doctrinal errors. The Chinese characters for heresy, "different" (異) and "end" (端), indicate that while it might seem similar at first, it ultimately diverges completely, and thus it is called "heresy."

However, originally, the term "haireisis" referred to factions or sects, where groups formed their own divisions and repeatedly caused splits in the church. This was broadly referred to as "heresy."

Of course, causing doctrinal issues that divide the body of Christ, the church is undeniably heresy! However, it is not solely about doctrinal reasons. Whatever the reason may be, any act that divides the Lord's church, creates factions, and sows discord is collectively referred to as "**heresy**" (**haireisis**) in the Scriptures. In this way, the "false prophets" of the Old Testament and the "false teachers" of the New Testament secretly introduce destructive heresies, ultimately aiming to destabilize. In the Old Testament, their goal was to disrupt the assembly of Israel, while in the New Testament, they seek to tear apart and destroy the church, the assembly of saints. Their ultimate wicked purpose is clear: to

divide and undermine. **Thus, falsehood can undoubtedly be seen as another name for evil.**

In the Bible, among the things God declares He detests most, falsehood is prominently listed. Even in the final chapters of the Bible, in Revelation 21 and 22, there are three descriptions of those who will never enter the city of God. In each instance, the description ends with the same phrase:

"All liars, those who love and practice falsehood, will be thrown into the lake of fire burning with sulfur! They will remain outside the city of God!"

The Bible concludes by firmly stating this judgment, emphasizing just how much God hates the evil of falsehood.

As we've seen before, falsehood fundamentally opposes two significant concepts.

As point (1) mentioned, falsehood is the opposite of "truth." Specifically, it refers to anything incorrect when measured against the perfect truth of God's Word, the Scriptures—anything that deviates from the Word! This is the first aspect of "falsehood."

(2) Another aspect is that falsehood is also the opposite of "sincerity" and "faithfulness." It stands in stark contrast to being truthful, faithful, and trustworthy. Falsehood, therefore, in our lives, refers to a lack of faithfulness.

Our Lord Jesus also condemned such falsehood, particularly a hypocritical life—living in a way that is outwardly holy but inwardly far from it. This kind of deceitful life, where the external appearance is at odds with reality, is also called falsehood in the Scriptures.

**"Beware of falsehood!"** This is the warning of the elderly Apostle Peter throughout chapter 2, urging us to be on guard against the false and evil things that seek to spread and divide the body of Christ, the church. **He reminds us to stay vigilant against this false identity that aims to destroy.**

At this point, we could raise a question.

Why does our God allow falsehood to remain among us for so long? Looking at verse 1 says that it has always existed, from the Old Testament until now, and it will continue to exist in the future! Why does our God do this? After all, falsehood is essentially another name for evil. Why does God, who is sovereign, allow evil to persist among us until the very end?

Is it because our Almighty God lacks the power to remove it? No way! Absolutely not!

We believe that the power of Satan has already been utterly crushed and defeated before the feet of our Lord!

I find the answer in Matthew 13:29-30. Shall we read it together?

**\* Our ID in Christ: Beware of the False IDs!**

"But he said, 'No, lest in gathering **the weeds** you **root up the wheat** along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, **"Gather**

**the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.** (Matthew 13:29-30)”

=> 9 then **the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials**, and **to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment**,

=> God, **who continues to train me until the end**, so that I, **who still resemble the weeds**, may fully ripen into the good **grain!**

In this passage from Matthew, when our God, represented by the master, says, “I am concerned that while pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them,” it is not because God is uncertain or confused about who the weeds are and who the wheat is. As always, God makes no mistakes, which is not an issue for Him.

Instead, it is because the problem lies with us. Although we have been clearly called as wheat, “called by God,” we still often live in ways that resemble the false weeds far too much. If we were to be uprooted now, we would perish! Therefore, God, in His patience, waits for us, continually training and refining us so that we might ultimately ripen into true wheat. He doesn’t stop pulling the weeds for the sake of the weeds but for our sake!

**For those of us who have been called as wheat**, God’s forbearance is His most gracious way of helping us grow. By allowing the weeds to serve as a warning and a lesson, He urges us to remain alert and focused so that we might mature into beautiful and fruitful wheat. Today, our Father God, in His infinite goodness, continues to shape and perfect us with the greatest care. Let us trust in His process and strive to grow into the glorious wheat He has called us to be!

Ultimately, as it says in verse 9, **the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and refine them into wheat!**

Therefore, what we must do is not to determine who is wheat and who is weeds. That is God’s work, not ours. With my foolish and weak judgment, someone may appear to be wheat but turn out to be weeds, or someone who seems like weeds now may ultimately be wheat. We must not judge; only God can do that.

Instead, we are called to distance ourselves, starting with our own hearts, from the characteristics of the false weeds. Day by day, we must humbly submit to the training the Lord is giving us and faithfully live out this moment, this place God has entrusted to us, in a manner worthy of **the identity of wheat**.

This is how **we guard against a false identity, drawing closer to the truth of God’s Word and a faithful life and firmly building the kingdom of God. This is our identity!** Hallelujah!

Then, as we examine the false identity that the elderly Apostle Peter continues to warn about, let us firmly establish God’s calling and election in this place today. I earnestly pray that all of us will become the wheat of the Lord as we ripen more and more. Today, we will meditate on this in two main ways.

[Main]

### 1. 'Master-Servant Relationship'

First, we must be vigilant against false identities because they disrupt the true "master-servant relationship." Let's read verses 1, 10, and 19 together.

#### \* Our ID in Christ: Beware of the False IDs! (Lordship)

1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them...

10 and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones,

19 They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.

The fundamental characteristic of a false identity is that it destroys the master-servant relationship. It constantly tries to undermine the Lordship of Christ. Who holds the Lordship? This is the part it keeps attacking. It causes us to deny the Lord who redeemed and died for us! It despises God, who governs all things, and mocks Him, implanting the false idea, "I am the master!"

The deceptive approach of evil started from the very beginning.

"If you eat from this tree of the knowledge of good and evil, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God!" This lie of Satan is what led Eve astray!

She quickly forgot how precious the grace was of having God as her Lord, being bound to Him. Instead, the lie implanted: "You will be like God! From now on, you are the master of your life! Live as you please!"

Deceived by this lie, Eve ate the fruit of the tree. But, after eating, did she truly become the master of her life?

NO WAY! That's impossible! This follows exactly the flow of verse 19. We may think, "I'm free!" but in reality, it's not freedom at all. It's the lie of evil that we've surrendered to, becoming its defeated servant. In doing so, we become bound as slaves to evil, falling into destruction.

Our God desires to restore this broken master-servant relationship within us. He speaks to us about it again in the Ten Commandments in the Old Testament. Let's read Exodus 20:3-5 together.

#### \* Our ID in Christ: Beware of the False IDs! (Lordship)

"You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for 'yourself' a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath,

or that is in the water under the earth. **You shall not bow down to them or serve them... (Abad, to become a servant) ... (Exodus 20:3-5)."**

=> "For if we live, we live **to the Lord**, and if we die, we die **to the Lord**. So then, whether we live, or whether we die, **we are the Lord's**. (Romans 14:8)"

God's clear command is that "**You shall not make for yourselves a graven image**" from anything in the heavens, the earth, or the sea. The key phrase here is "**for yourselves**." Our sinful nature constantly leads us to live for "me"—to look for something or someone that can do something great for "me." Once we find it, we end up following it. It becomes our idol, our master, and we serve it. In Hebrew, this is expressed as "**Abad**"—**to serve, to become a servant**. We become bound to it and end up living and dying under its influence.

If **the purpose of our lives** becomes "**for me**," such as "**so I can live well, so my family can live well**," then even if we call God our Lord, we return to the same starting point of sin as in Genesis. Like Eve, who saw the tree as "good for food, pleasing to the eye, and desirable for gaining wisdom," we took from it. We think it's good and pass it on to our loved ones—husbands, wives, children—telling them, "This is how you should live." But in doing so, we might lead them to become slaves to sin.

The false evil that tries to blur **the master-servant relationship** within us doesn't necessarily aim to make us stop calling God the Lord. It doesn't aim to make us unable to recognize Jesus Christ as our Lord. Those who propagate such lies are not foolish.

"Hey, call your God as you wish! Seek the Lord! Ask Him to make you rich and live well! Serve the Lord for **the purpose of your success and your prosperous life**. Just live that way!" This is exactly Satan's methodology.

This is because, during the early church period, they failed when they tried to prevent people from calling Jesus the Lord. Instead of being silenced, the faithful saints would declare boldly, as in Romans 14:8. Let's read it together. Start!

Now, they've changed their tactics. They're distorting the most important part: "**for the Lord**". It's more like, "Just live **for yourself**, that's all!" But the Bible consistently teaches us: **It's not for yourself, but for the Lord! We belong to the Lord! We are God's servants and God's possession! We live for God's glory alone!**

For those who truly serve God as Lord, what will our Heavenly Father say to them? Let's read Malachi 3:17 and 1 Peter 2:9 together. Start!

**\* Our ID in Christ: Beware of the False IDs! (Lordship)**

"They shall be mine, says **the Lord of hosts**, in the day when **I make up my treasured possession**, and **I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him** (Malachi 3:17).

=> "But you are **a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession**, that you may proclaim the excellencies of **him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light**. (1 Peter 2:9)"

It's not just ownership, but "My special possession," "My precious treasure, My Treasured Possession!"—that is exactly who you are! You are Mine! Just as a person cherishes their son who serves them, I cherish and value you greatly! This is the promise from our God the Father.

Therefore, as a chosen people, royal priests, a holy nation, and a people belonging to Him, we, who have now found light from the glory of Jesus, who were once in darkness, are under whose care?

As God's possession, living for the Lord, proclaiming His beautiful virtues as we live on this earth, who is taking care of us?

It's because I belong to God!

My Lord takes full responsibility for me, and no one can do anything to me, who belongs to God!

In this way, living only for God's glory—whether eating or drinking, whatever we do, living for the Lord—our Lord will shape our lives into the most beautiful life and guide us until we grow into God's maturing, fruitful grain. Hallelujah!

This is undoubtedly the life of a true believer, incomparable to a life lived for my own purposes. It is the most secure, perfect, and successful!

I earnestly pray that all of us, remembering that we are God's servants, His special possession, live our lives for the glory of God in this very place. May we all be true grain, living to fulfill His purpose.

## 2. **Intellect, Emotion, and Will**

Secondly, we need to be careful about false IDs because they disturb the harmony of a **believer's intellect, emotion, and will**. Let's read the passages from verses 2, 3, and 12 together.

\* **Our ID in Christ: Beware of the False IDs! (Intellect, Emotion, and Will)**

2 And many will **(1) follow their sensuality**, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed.

3 And **in their greed**, they will exploit you **(2) with false words...**

12 But these, **(3) like irrational animals**, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction,

=> **(1) The issue of actions in life (will)**,

**(2) The issue of proclaiming the Word (Intellect)**,

### (3) The issue of being swayed by emotions (emotion).

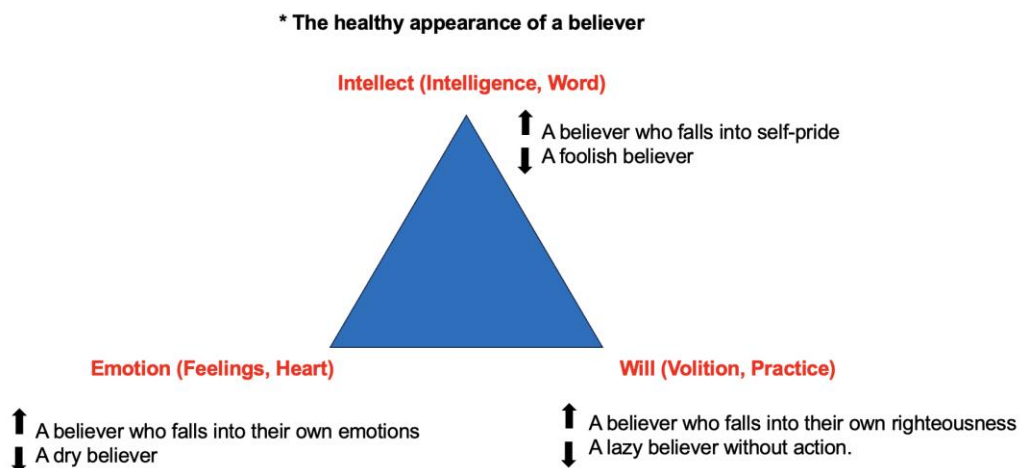
2 Peter 2 overall speaks about the characteristics of false teachers, and when we organize those teachings, we can see that issues arise in Intellect, emotion, and will.

First, point (1) discusses sensuality, specifically immoral living. This leads to the truth of the gospel being blasphemed. In such cases, a false teacher might speak well of the truth but **fail to live according to it, showing no corresponding action**. Instead, they might engage in immorality, adultery, or other sinful behaviors, which cause the truth to be slandered. This issue relates to will or action in life.

For point (2), the issue is with the proclamation of the Word itself. These false teachers deviate from the Bible, **creating teachings** based on personal greed or group interests, which they use to exploit others. The New Translation version translates this as, "With clever words, they will steal money from you." This is a typical characteristic of cults and heretical sects, who distort the Scriptures and make up teachings to deceive people. This is an issue with the mind.

For point (3) describes the false teachers as being **like irrational animals**. The word "reason" here refers to "logos," which is also translated as "the Word" in the New Testament. So, they do not receive the intellectual understanding of the Word, and since they are described as animals, their lives are devoid of practical action, swayed only by emotions. This is the issue with emotion.

A few years ago, when we were studying the seven churches in the book of Revelation, we meditated on these aspects of Intellect, emotion, and will. We concluded that for believers, the most healthy form of faith is when these three elements are in balance, forming an equilateral triangle. If any one of these aspects is overly emphasized, problems can arise. At the same time, if any aspect is too weak, that is also problematic. If we were to represent this balance as a shape, it would look like this.





(1) Looking at each element individually, first, when we become too absorbed in the intellectual aspect, related to wisdom and the Word, we must remember: no matter how much we know, how much more can we truly know before God? However, if we pride ourselves on knowing a lot about God but only grow puffed up in our minds, we can easily fall into the trap of becoming "a believer full of self-pride." On the other hand, if we neglect the intellectual aspect and say, "Ah, that's too difficult! I don't understand!" and pay no attention to it, we will end up knowing nothing properly about God or His Word. As a result, we will become "a foolish believer," easily swayed by the devil's deceptions.

(2) In the emotional aspect, if we keep focusing only on the emotional or sensory aspects, we can easily be deceived by our own emotions because, due to our weakness, our emotions can mislead us. This leads to confusion and makes us unable to distinguish between the work of the Holy Spirit and our own feelings. Before we know it, we can easily become "a believer who is lost in their own emotions." On the other hand, if we neglect the emotional aspect entirely, we forget the passionate first love and become like a dry, parched land, with our souls withering like the dry grass in a desert. This results in us becoming "dry believers."

(3) Lastly, regarding the volitional aspect, if we become too focused on our practical actions, thinking that because we do everything diligently, we must be right in everything we do, we can easily become a "believer who falls into self-righteousness." We might think, "I'm doing well, praying a lot, serving well, never missing a worship service, doing everything right!" and turn into a modern-day Pharisee. On the other hand, if we have no interest in the volitional aspect at all, we will become a "lazy believer" without any actions. In the Bible, when Jesus spoke about the lazy servant who buried the one talent he received from his master, He didn't just say, "You're lazy." He said, "You wicked and lazy servant!"

Just as with individuals, the same applies to our families and churches. The three elements of faith—Intellect, emotion, and will—must be balanced within us and among us. However, the evil force of deception will continuously try to disrupt this balance.

It might say, "Oh, knowing the Bible well is enough! Don't worry about anything else! Just leave it!" Or "What's the point of reading the Bible if you don't understand anything? Just follow the fiery work of the Holy Spirit!" Or "What matters most is action. Everything else is useless; don't bother with it!"

These strategies—extremes in one area or neglecting another—are the tactics of Satan. Anything extreme is often rooted in evil. To summarize, it looks like this.

**\* Our ID: The Harmony of a Healthy Believer**

**1. Intellect:** "A desire to always seek to know God, but **never falling into self-pride—a wise mind!**"

2. **Emotion:** "A passionate empathy, yet with discernment, **never falling into self-deception—sensitive emotions!**"

3. **Will:** "Actions that follow the will of the Lord, **but never falling into self-righteousness—strong will!**"

For these three elements to remain properly balanced, we must constantly move with the "center of gravity in Jesus" and regularly reflect on ourselves. Even if we were right today, if we remain idle, we could easily go astray tomorrow!

If the intellectual aspect is lacking, we need to put more effort into it, but if we become too absorbed in it, we should know when to step back. The same goes for our emotional aspect—neither lacking nor excessive—and for the will, which must also be kept in check. As we continually reflect on ourselves, our entrusted families, and the church, and as we move forward without neglecting any area, the Lord Jesus Christ will shape us, creating the beautiful Kingdom of God within us, our families, and our churches. I am confident that He will accomplish this in the end.

## **[Conclusion]**

Dear saints,

Today, we reflected on 2 Peter 2, examining our ID: Be cautious of false IDs! To summarize.

\* **Our ID in Christ (12): Beware of the False IDs!**

1. **'Master-Servant Relationship'**

: No longer living for my own purposes, but remembering that I am **God's servant and His special possession, living my life solely for His glory—this is the ID of the true grain!**

2. **'Intellect, Emotion, Will'**

(1) **"The ID of intellect that always seeks to know God yet does not fall into self-pride!"**

(2) **"The ID of emotion that deeply empathizes yet does not fall into self-deception through discernment!"**

(3) **"The ID of will that follows the Lord's will but never falls into self-righteousness!"**

I sincerely pray that each and every one of us becomes the true grain of God, maturing more and more as we live out His will.

