

Workshop Session 2

Identity in Christ and Counselling Ministry



Karl Hood

Identity in Christ and Counselling Ministry

1. A counsellor in Christ: how Isaiah 61 shapes us and our ministry - Laura
2. Images of identity: using 1 Peter 2 in our self-image struggles - Karl
3. Doubting our Identity? 1 Understanding Scrupulosity - Andrew
4. Doubting our Identity? 2 Ministry with Scrupulosity - Andrew

Images of identity: using 1 Peter 2 in our self-image struggles

Karl Hood



Christian Meditation

'What is the lawnmower for, Miri?'

'What is little Miri for?'

Carved animals on chapel pew ends



Images of identity: using 1 Peter 2 in our self-image struggles

Christian Meditation

Deliberate & Occasional Meditation

Numerous ways to work with the images and metaphors of Scripture



Images of identity: using 1 Peter 2 in our self-image struggles

Jason 24yo

Recently come to faith from a non-church background. From a broken home, 3 half-siblings (4 fathers in total), had an abusive stepfather who belittled him and physically beat him.

Has a 3-year old daughter with an ex-partner – limited access. Works as a spray painter in a panel shop and his workmates are uncomfortable with his new faith in Christ. Feels rejected and unworthy before people, but has experienced some real joy in being welcomed by Jesus Christ and a few people who have opened their homes to him



Images of identity: using 1 Peter 2 in our self-image struggles

Claire 45yo

Grew up in the faith. Drifted from the Lord in her mid-late teens. After numerous sexual relationships, knowingly married an unbeliever and lived a pleasure-seeking but increasingly unsatisfying life for years with immorality and infidelities from both spouses.

Came back to the Lord in her mid-thirties, but feels shame over her past. No-one at church knows anything about the things she did and was involved in. She assumes that everyone else has always led upright and blameless lives as they all appear so good and stable



Images of identity: using 1 Peter 2 in our self-image struggles

Paul 55yo

Years of belonging to legalistic churches that drive individuals to wear themselves out for the Lord. 'There's always more to do to please Him - our best is never good enough.'

Now with his working years in decline, looks back and feels he has not done enough, not achieved what he set out to do. He is approaching retirement with despondency and regret over his inadequacies



Images of identity: using 1 Peter 2 in our self-image struggles

Jill 68yo

Recently widowed after 50 years of difficult marriage with a critical husband. Loves the Lord and has been a faithful servant in the church since she started teaching Sunday School in her teens.

Was sexually abused by a family member as a child for some years. Has not told anyone – just tried to suppress it. Deep sense of shame and inferiority. Feeling very lonely.



Images of identity: using 1 Peter 2 in our self-image struggles

Our *communal* identity

1 Peter 2 is all PLURAL – the KJV would be clearer!

- It's **not** who *I* am, but who **we** are in ***Christ***
- Counter culture
- Counter our pride and idolatries



Images of identity: using 1 Peter 2 in our self-image struggles

So, who are we?

Group work:

What does 1 Peter 2 tell us about who we are?



Images of identity: using 1 Peter 2 in our self-image struggles

Unpacking some key scenes

- Literal and spiritual sacrifices
- Living stones in a spiritual house with Christ



Images of identity: using 1 Peter 2 in our self-image struggles

Unpacking some key scenes

- Honour vs shame



Images of identity: using 1 Peter 2 in our self-image struggles

Unpacking some key scenes

- Royalty
- Priesthood



Images of identity: using 1 Peter 2 in our self-image struggles

Unpacking some key scenes

- Holiness
- Nation



Images of identity: using 1 Peter 2 in our self-image struggles

Unpacking some key scenes

- Calling something your own possession



Images of identity: using 1 Peter 2 in our self-image struggles

Unpacking some key scenes

- A people *vs* not a people
- Mercy *vs* no mercy



Images of identity: using 1 Peter 2 in our self-image struggles

Unpacking some key scenes

- Darkness to light



Images of identity: using 1 Peter 2 in our self-image struggles

Unpacking some key scenes

- Proclaimers of God's excellencies



Images of identity: using 1 Peter 2 in our self-image struggles

Unpacking some key scenes

- Sojourners and exiles



Images of identity: using 1 Peter 2 in our self-image struggles

Unpacking some key scenes

- Abstaining from passions of the flesh that wage war against our souls



Images of identity: using 1 Peter 2 in our self-image struggles

*Communicating, imagining, seeing,
meditating, absorbing, retaining,
connecting, recalling, etc.*

Group work:

Drawing upon your experience and creativity, list and describe how we could use 1 Peter 2 with Jason, Claire, Paul and Jill



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*Communicating, imagining, seeing,
meditating, absorbing, retaining,
connecting, recalling, etc.*

Open feedback



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