



# SECURE IN CHRIST

EMBRACING YOUR TRUE IDENTITY IN CHRIST

by  
design  
Training Women to Serve  
and Influence Others for Christ ministries



# AGENDA

## Part One

- Destructive Messages
- The Ways We Tend to Respond

## Part Two

- The Biblical Basis for Our Worth
- Practical Application
- Reclaiming the Joy



# We Hear Destructive Messages

## They come from

- › our past
- › society
- › flawed theology
- › the flesh
- › the enemy of our soul





We think 50,000  
thoughts per day.

....more or less



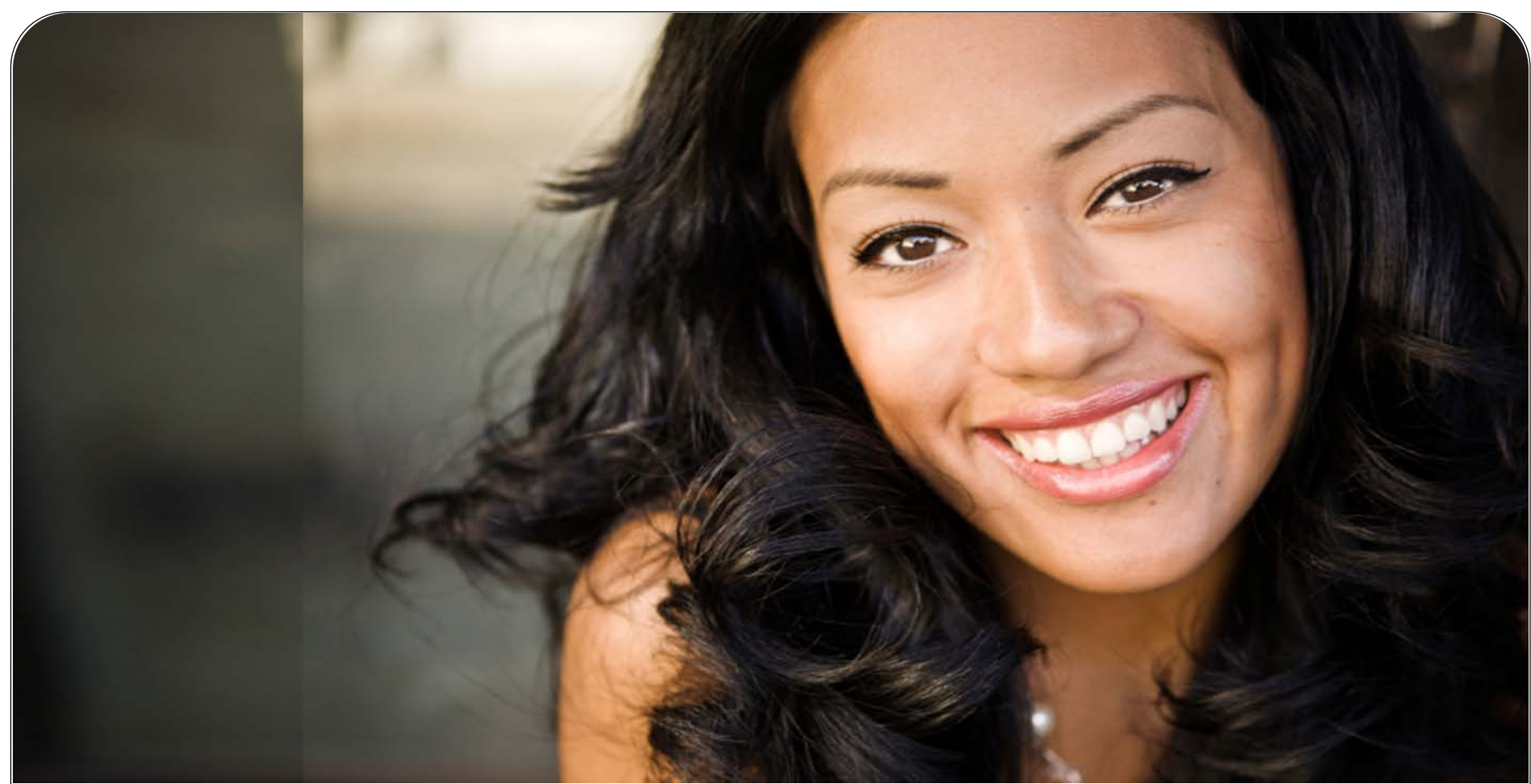


# DESTRUCTIVE MESSAGES

create

## FALSE BELIEFS

Let's examine some of the lies

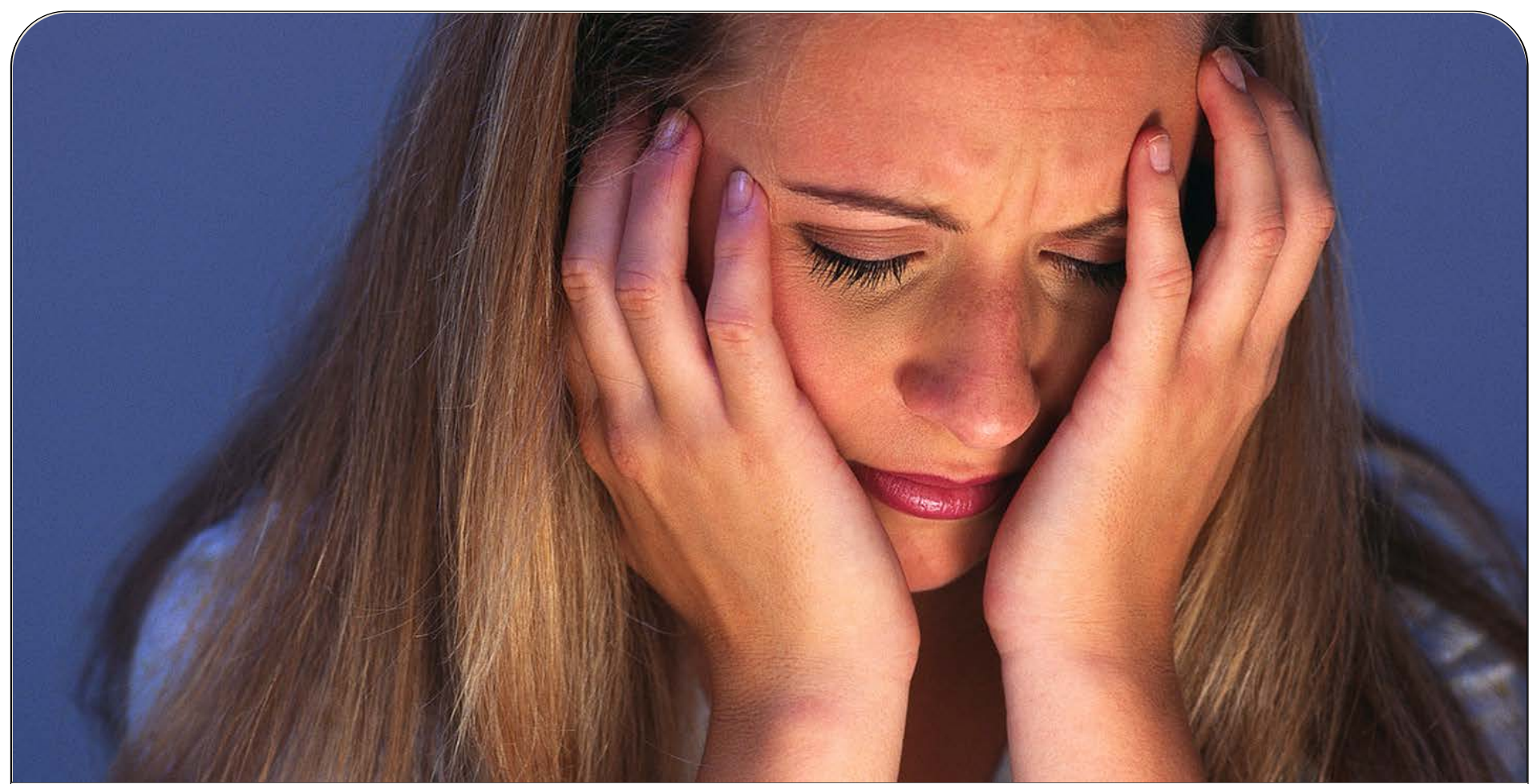


I must meet certain standards to feel good about myself



I must have the approval of certain others to feel good about myself.





Those who fail are unworthy of love  
and deserve to be punished.



I am what I am, I cannot change. I am  
hopeless.

How we respond

Over-Compensate

Isolate

Constantly Compare

Rely Heavily on Others

Wear Relational Masks



# The Seven Relational Masks



- The Spiritualizer
- The Avoider
- The Aggressor
- The Deflector
- The Self Blamer
- The Savior
- The Imposter



# The Spiritualizer

- Wants to appear “spiritual”
- Hides behind pious words
- Focused on looking good
- Always ready to give a sermon rather than affection and practical help

Sapphira

Acts 5:1-10



Nicolas Poussin. *The Death of Sapphira*. 1652.

# Avoider



- Thinks she is avoiding pain but is really only postponing it
- Is not allowing God to work in her life in the hard places
- Doesn't want to make waves
- Procrastinates

Leah

Genesis 29:31-35



Rachel and Leah by Deborah Kotovsky



# AGGRESSOR

- Argumentative
- Getting things done is more important than loving people
- Offers advice when it isn't wanted or needed
- Tends to isolate



Martha

Luke 10:38-41



He Qi, China

# DEFLECTOR

- Has to say or do something whenever a situation becomes tense
- Tells lots of jokes and stories
- Changes the topic if it becomes too personal
- Keeps herself too busy for deep relationships



Peter

**Matthew 16:21-28**

**Matthew 26:31-75**

**John 21:15-25**



# SELF-BLAMER

- Sees herself as a lost cause
- Has trouble accepting love from God and others
- Lives with constant self-pity and guilt
- Everything that goes wrong is her fault



Elijah

1 Kings 19:1-18



**An Angel Awakens The Prophet Elijah**  
Juan Antonio Escalant 1667



## SAVIOR

- Always busy rescuing someone
- Wants people to notice her sacrifices
- Neglects her own needs
- Carries the world on her shoulders

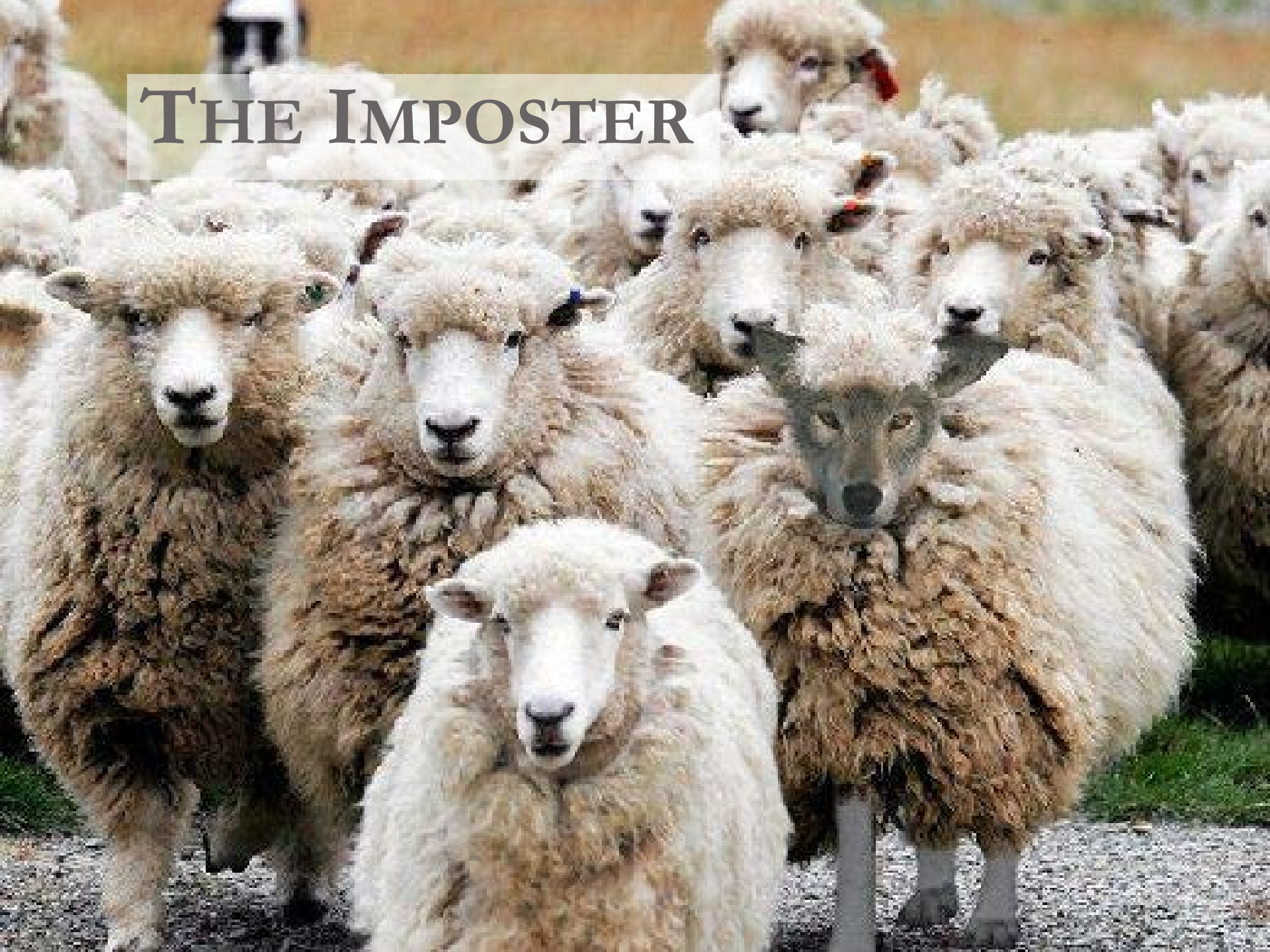
Moses

Exodus 18:8-27





# THE IMPOSTER



# THE IMPOSTER

- Lives in fear of God and others
- Is preoccupied with acceptance and approval
- Suppresses or camouflages feelings
- Has a compulsive desire to present a perfect image
- Is insensitive to the needs and dreams of others
- Keeps us from deep relationships



Are YOU One of the Masked Ones?

Video for Reflection  
Voice of Truth: Casting Crowns

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TCggDyarI0>

Come back for Part 2

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Who we are in Christ

**The Biblical Basis for Our Worth**  
**Practical Application**  
**Reclaiming the Joy**

# The Biblical Basis for Our Worth





# Reviewing the Truth

## Satan says

- You must meet certain standards to feel good about yourself.

## God says

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

- Romans 5:1-2

JUSTIFICATION



# Reviewing the Truth

## Satan says

- You must have the approval of certain others to feel good about yourself.

## God says

• I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.

-Jeremiah 31:3

Reconciliation

# Reviewing the Truth

## Satan says

- Those who fail are unworthy of love and deserve to be punished.

## God says

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

-1 John 4:10

Propitiation

# Reviewing the Truth

## Satan says

- You are what you are.  
You cannot change.

## God says

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

-2 Corinthians 5:17

**Regeneration**

Therefore...

Because of **CHRIST**

I am completely forgiven  
and fully pleasing to God. I  
no longer have to fear  
failure.

Therefore...

Because of **CHRIST**  
I am totally accepted by  
God. I no longer have to  
fear rejection.

Therefore...

Because of **CHRIST**

I am deeply loved by God. I  
no longer have to fear  
punishment or punish  
others.

Therefore...

Because of CHRIST

I have been made brand  
new, complete in Christ. I  
no longer need to  
experience the pain of  
shame.

Video for Reflection

## Who Am I: Casting Crowns

Performed at UPC Conference Church 2006 De Bron, by the Oslo UPC Youth Group.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CT7x3VnrqbA>

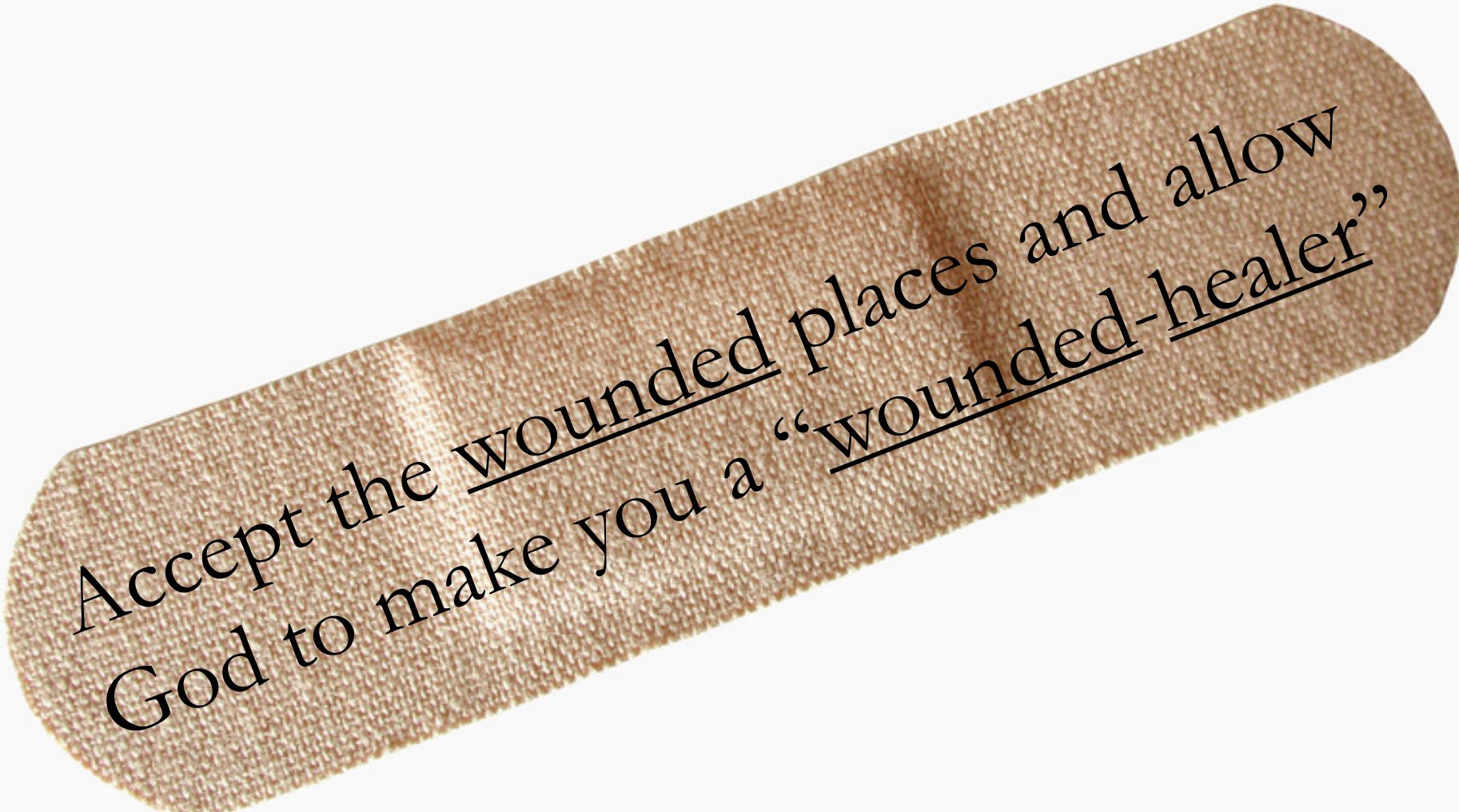




# Applying the Truth



Begin with  
prayerful self-  
examination

A single, rectangular, brown adhesive bandage with rounded ends is shown against a white background. The bandage has a fine, woven texture. Printed in black, serif font on the bandage is the text: "Accept the wounded places and allow God to make you a "wounded-healer". The text is oriented diagonally across the bandage.

Accept the wounded places and allow  
God to make you a "wounded-healer"

# Makeover!

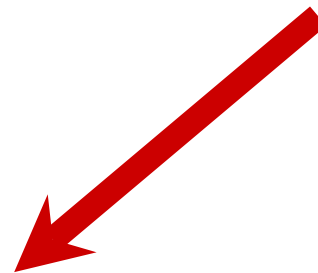
- Health
- Fitness
- Fashion
- Style
- Romance
- Finance
- Career
- Home
- Learning
- Culture
- Spirituality
- Escapes

**Upgrade your life!**

Ultimate New Year's Resolution Guide

Life Changes Quick Fixes Great Escapes

Cooperate with  
the ultimate  
Makeover Artist



Deepen your  
relationship  
with God





Remove the masks and become  
more authentic with others

# Remove the Mask



Speak and receive the truth in love



Release others from the responsibility of making you whole



Don't hide heartache and grief



Continue to recognize and reject the enemy's lies



Be transparent and vulnerable with the right people



Plan ahead for circumstances that may challenge your sense of worth

# **NEWS FLASH**

**As a child of God, you are a daughter of a king!  
Not just any king, but the KING OF KINGS!**





# What does it mean to be a **daughter of the King?**

- It means that I am accepted as God's beloved child
- It means that I have hope and a future
- It means that I have access to the King of Kings
- It means that I have an eternal inheritance
- It means that I have a ready defense against all enemies
- It means that I have a reason to celebrate!

# Who am I in Christ?

- I am a **new creation** of infinite worth.
- I am **deeply loved**, completely forgiven, fully pleasing and totally accepted by God.
- I am **absolutely complete in Christ**.
- When my performance reflects my new identity in Christ, that reflection is dynamically unique.
- **There has never been another person like me in the history of mankind, nor will there ever be.**
- God has made me an **original, one of a kind, a special person.**

Video for Reflection  
Longer: Dan Folgelberg

[https://youtu.be/rrDcZA08\\_Ek](https://youtu.be/rrDcZA08_Ek)

*May the point of this song resonate with you.  
God loves you just like this.*

*Blessings, Jean  
jmarrapodi@applestar.org*