

GOSPEL-CENTERED  
IDENTITY (VALIDATION)  
IN MOTHERHOOD

Lamplighters Ministry  
September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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Who Am I (Casting Crowns)

Not because of who I am

But because of what You've done

Not because of what I've done

But because of who You are

2

Who Am I (Casting Crowns)

Not because of who **You** are

But because of what **I've** done

Not because of what **You've** done

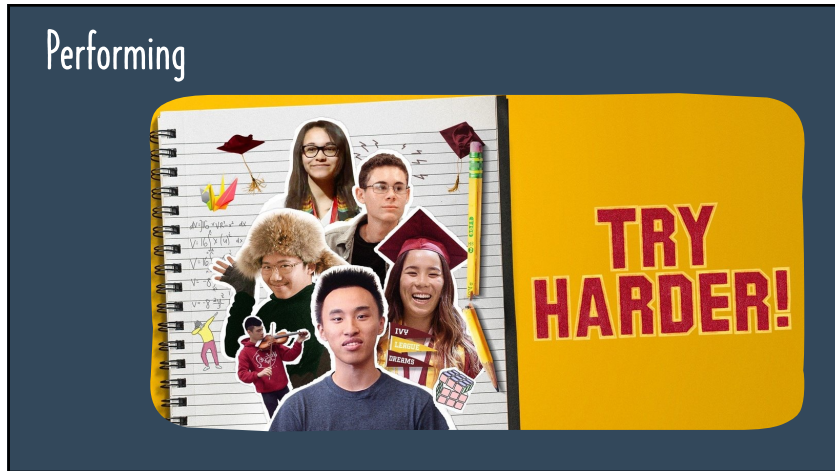
But because of who **I** am

3

Main Question

What does it mean to **remember**  
your identity in Christ and keep the  
gospel **central** in this season of  
motherhood?

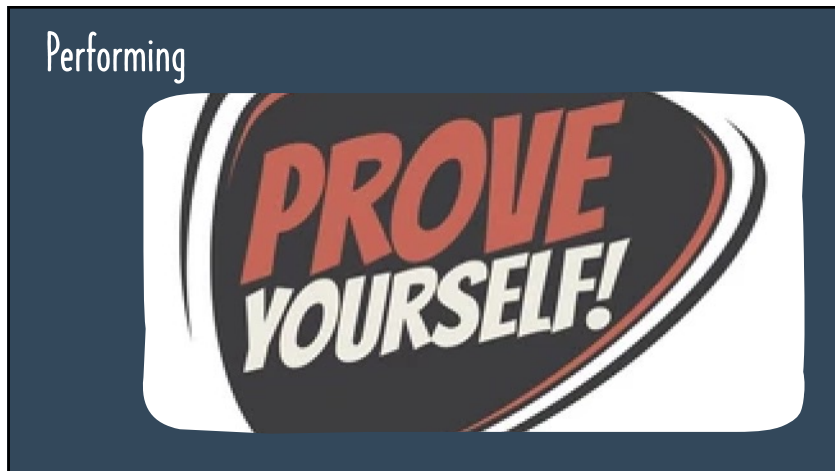
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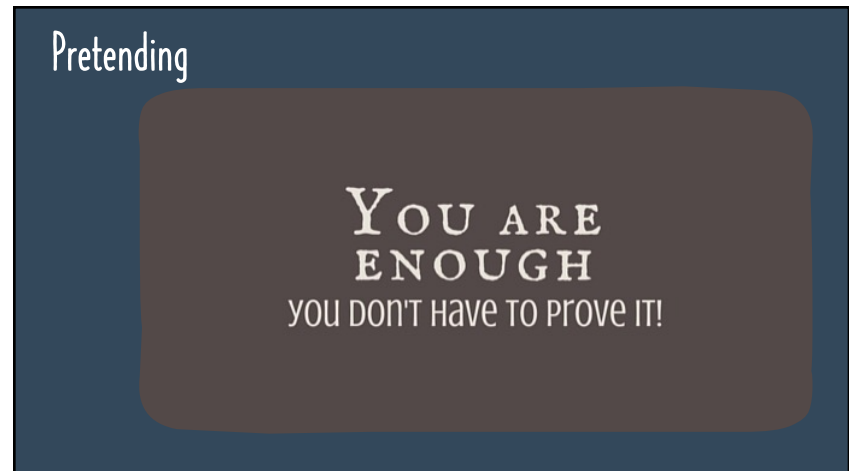
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## Our Culture's Response to Performing -> Pretending

FEARLESSMOTIVATION.COM  
 You alone are **enough**.  
 You have **nothing**  
 to prove to **anybody**.

- MAYA ANGELOU



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## Our Culture's Response to Performing Moms -> Pretending

“Sometimes our response to “not enough” feelings in motherhood is to brush off our guilt instead of looking beneath it. Influencers, authors, and even our own friends and family tell us that simply because we are our children’s loving moms, we *are* enough.

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## Our Culture's Response to Performing Moms -> Pretending

Our well-intentioned efforts are all that’s needed. We should stop worrying about the nagging guilt and create the life we want. But deep down we still have this lurking feeling that we’re missing the mark, and we don’t know how to cope with it. So we joke and eye roll about our child’s behavior. We post our mom-fails to social media.

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## Our Culture's Response to Performing Moms -> Pretending

We let the mess be messy without bothering to clean it up. We tease the moms who seem more balanced or accomplished. When in doubt, we carve out more ‘me time’ or escape into exercise, food, work, or social media. **We lower the bar until our guilt is quieted.**”

~ Emily Jensen & Laura Wifler, *Risen Motherhood*

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## Performing (Legalism) Versus Pretending (Licentiousness)

SELF-CENTERED	SELF-CENTERED
I Need to Try Harder To Prove Myself	I Don't Need to Try at All to Prove Myself
I Am Enough Because I ____	I Am Enough Just Because
I Am Who Others Say I Am	I Am Who I Say I Am
I Live Under The Law	I Dismiss The Law
I Seek to Justify Self	I Reject Justifying Self

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## God's Response To Our Performing & Pretending - Perfection In Christ

“and be found in him [Jesus], not having a **righteousness of my own** (performing) that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.”

~ Apostle Paul, Philippians 3:9

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## God's Response To Our Performing & Pretending - Perfection In Christ

Yet we know that a person is not **justified by works of the law** (performing) but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order **to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law**, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

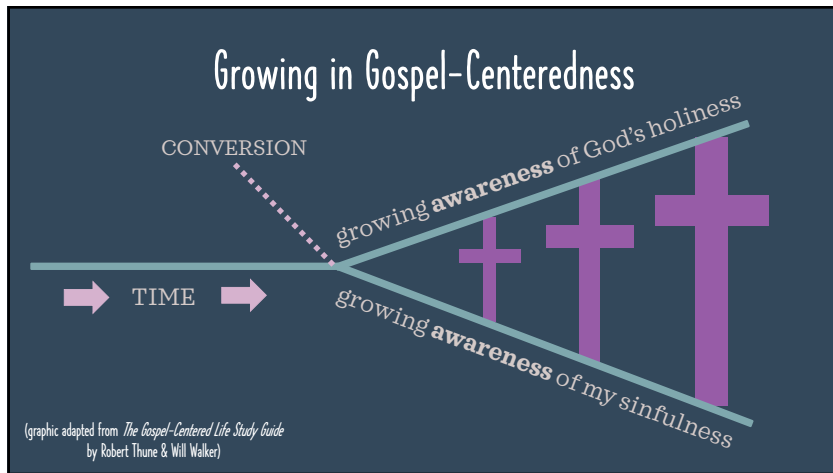
~ Apostle Paul, Galatians 2:16

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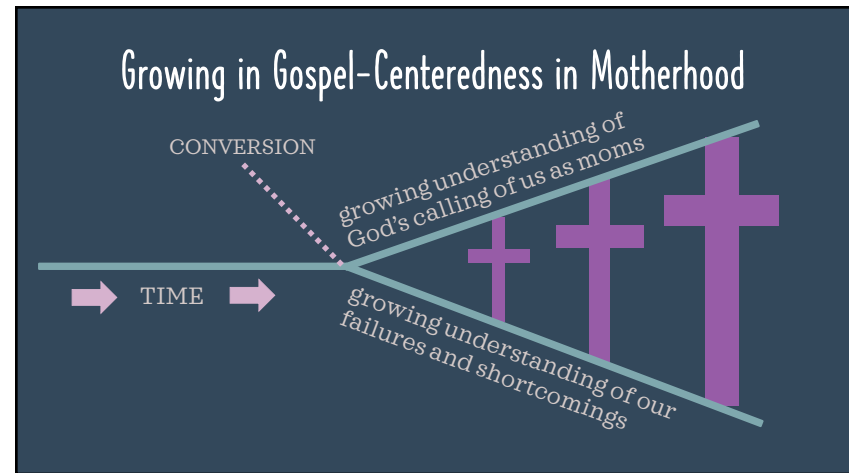
## Gospel-Centered Identity (Validation)

SELF-CENTERED	SELF-CENTERED	GOSPEL-CENTERED
I Need to Try Harder to Prove Myself	I Don't Need to Try at All to Prove Myself	<b>I Can Joyfully and Freely Work Hard because Christ Proved It All</b>
I Am Enough Because I ____	I Am Enough Just Because	<b>I Am Not Enough But Christ Is More Than Enough For Me</b>
I Am Who Others Say I Am	I Am Who I Say I Am	<b>I Am Who God Says I Am</b>
I Live Under The Law	I Dismiss The Law	<b>Christ Fulfilled the Law for Me</b>
I Seek to Justify Self	I Reject Justifying Self	<b>I Am Justified In Christ</b>

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- ### False Sources of Righteousness
- **Hard work Righteousness:** "I try my best at parenting..."
  - **Family Righteousness:** "my kids are well-behaved..."
  - **Theological Righteousness:** "I teach my kids good theology..."
  - **Schedule Righteousness:** "I manage my time wisely..."
  - **Flexibility Righteousness:** "I'm flexible and relaxed..."
  - **Mercy Righteousness:** "I care about the poor and needy..."
- (list adapted from *The Gospel-Centered Life Study Guide* by Robert Thune & Will Walker)

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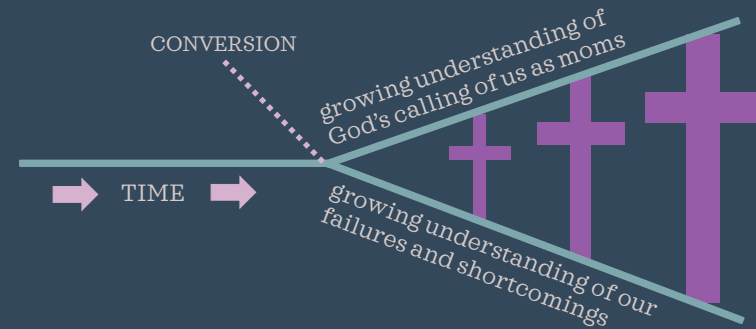
## False Sources of Righteousness

- **Legalistic Righteousness:** “I don’t drink, smoke, watch\_\_\_\_\_”
- **Financial Righteousness:** “I live within my means, no debt...”
- **Political Righteousness:** “I voted for\_\_\_\_\_”
- **Tolerance Righteousness:** “I am open-minded...”
- \_\_\_\_\_ Righteousness: “I’m \_\_\_\_\_ unlike so-and-so...”

(list adapted from *The Gospel-Centered Life Study Guide* by Robert Thune & Will Walker)

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## Growing in Gospel-Centeredness in Motherhood



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## The Solid Rock

My hope is built on nothing less  
 Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness  
 I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
 But wholly lean on Jesus’ name

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## God's Response To Our Performing & Pretending - Perfection In Christ

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world  
 ~ Apostle Paul, Galatians 6:14

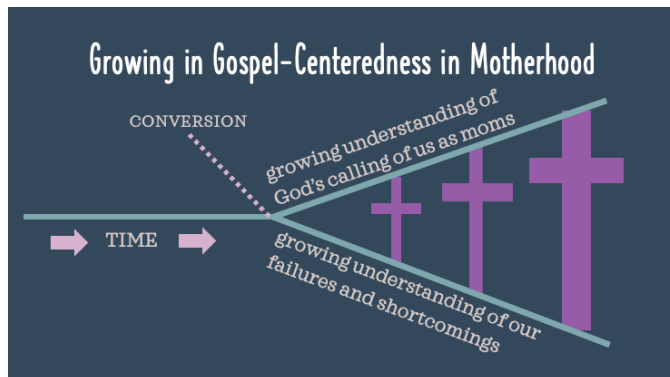
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## Gospel-Centered Identity in Motherhood Lamplighters 09.27.22

**Main Question:** What does it mean to remember your identity in Christ and keep the gospel central in this season of motherhood?

### A. 2 Ways That We Stray from Gospel-Centeredness – Performing & Pretending

### B. We Are Not Enough But Christ Is More Than Enough For Us

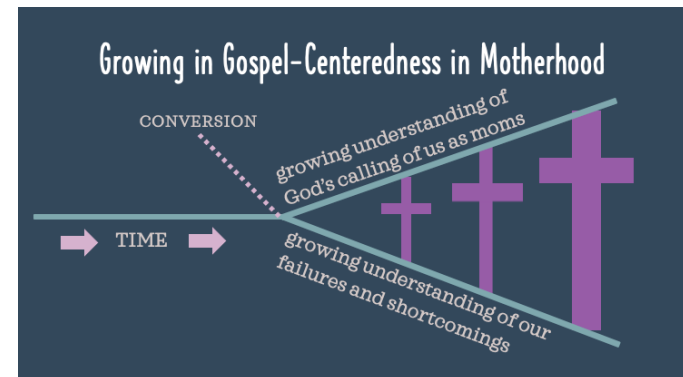


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### Discussion Questions:

1. What are ways that you are tempted to “perform” or “pretend” in this season of being a mom?
2. Can you identify any false sources of self-righteousness in your life?
3. What is 1 way that you can regularly preach the gospel to yourself and remind yourself of who you are in Christ?
4. Take time to meditate on the gospel together and what it means to live and to love firmly anchored in your identity in Christ.

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