

# DEALING WITH COMPARISON

We are all tempted to create a different picture of who we really are; maybe it's because we're trying to escape or cover our failure, mask pain, or because we're consumed by comparison with others. For all these reasons and more, we often create an "illusion" to those around us, hiding the present reality. In this series, we seek to help students find the freedom that comes with establishing their identity in Christ. Specifically, we will walk through ways we find our identity in other things and how that plays out when faced with failure, pain, and comparison.



1

Let's quickly recap what we talked about this weekend. Who was at Wake and wants to share what Sean taught about in our series, "The Illusion"?  
\*At Saturday Wake they walked through Numbers 11, so some students might reference that as well.\*

6

Rather than finding joy in being reunited with and restored by Jesus, Peter is caught comparing himself with John. How have you seen comparison remove joy in your life?

2

Read John 21:15-22. What is the context surrounding this passage? What is Jesus communicating to Peter?  
-Peter had denied Jesus three times, Jesus was crucified, He rose from the dead and is now reinstating Peter. Jesus is calling Peter to follow Him again.

7

Read Acts 5:40-41. Peter and the apostles are rejoicing despite being beaten and mocked. How does knowing your identity in Christ give you joy in every circumstance?  
-You're not concerned with what others around you are thinking or doing, but your joy comes from walking in obedience and pleasing Christ alone. (Gal. 1:10)

3

As Jesus is telling Peter how he is going to die for Christ's sake, what does Peter do? (Read v. 20-21)  
-Peter looks back at John, and asks Jesus, "Lord, what about him?"

8

Rather than responding to what Jesus called him to do, Peter first compares himself to John. How can comparison take us off mission?  
-When we compare ourselves to others, we lose sight of the mission God has called us to do.

4

In this moment, we can conclude that comparison removes Peter's confidence. How have you seen comparison affect your confidence?  
-Ex. Losing confidence when someone else has more likes, makes better grades, or is better than you at something,

9

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. What is the mission that God has called us to as His followers? How have you seen comparison take you off mission of loving God and others?  
-We are called to know God and to make Him known. We are His representatives on earth to call people to follow Him.

5

Read Matt. 16:18. Peter, rather than comparing himself to John, needed to remember his identity in Christ. How can finding your identity in Christ (John 1:12) give you confidence rather than leading you to comparison?

10

In what area of your life do you most struggle with comparison? How can your identity in Christ give you confidence, joy and purpose in that area?