

# DEALING WITH FAILURE

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 new series, "The Illusion"?

6

Read Gen. 3:11-13. What is Adam and Eve's next response to God?

*-Rather than taking ownership for what they had done, they try to shift the blame.*

2

Sean taught us this weekend from Genesis 3. What was so significant about Adam and Eve's failure?  
*-Their failure and disobedience to God brought sin into the world which separated us from God (see Rom. 5:12).*

7

When is a time that you tried to shift the blame onto someone else for something you did? What led you to do that? How could you take ownership instead of shifting blame?

3

Not all failure is sin; However, if we are identified by our failure, how might that lead us to sin?  
*-Example: We make a bad grade (which isn't inherently sinful), but because we allow that failure to identify us, our embarrassment causes us to lie about our grades (which lying would be sin).*

8

Read Genesis 3:21. What did God provide for Adam and Eve? Why is this important?

*-He provided garments of skin, meaning that DESPITE Adam and Eve's failure, God made a sacrifice on their behalf in order to clothe them in a way that they themselves couldn't (Gen. 3:7). This is symbolic of Christ dying to cover our sins and our failures.*

4

Read Gen. 3:7. What is Adam and Eve's first response after they sinned?  
*-They attempt to make coverings for themselves and hide from God.*

9

Instead of being identified by our failure, we can receive God's Grace and walk in freedom. Read Galatians 5:1. What does it look like to walk in freedom?

5

How do you respond when you fail or fall short? What would it look like for you to CONFESS instead of COVER?  
*-We can sometimes try and hide our sin from others and not confess it like we are called to in James 5:16.*

10

Consider this quote:

*Religion: "I messed up, my Dad is going to kill me."*

*Sonship: "I messed up, I need to call my Dad."*

What is the difference between religion and sonship, and how does that impact our view of our failures?