

SPEAKER: KASEY VAN NORMAN January 28, 2018 / Simulcast Host CBC
"BUT WHO DO YOU SAY I AM" Matthew 16:15

There is a direct correlation between who we say God is and who we say we are—our identity.

1. What is the worst thing that can happen to you?
Shows us the place of fear?
2. When you are honest do you feel safe or rejected?
3. In a moment of crisis who is the first person or thing you turn to?
Shows us where our affection lies.
4. Do you feel fully loved right now? Without qualifications, limitations, or expectations? That answers the question, who we think we are and more importantly what we think God is.

1 John 4:8 "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

1 John 4:18 "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love." (NIV)

Kasey come face to face with her worst secret, of infidelity. She reconnected to a living, personal relationship God offers to us all--- unconditional love and forgiveness. Without conditions, imitations or qualifications. God proved himself over and over to be all she needed or desired, because "Jesus had taken the full weight of what I deserved". Free now of all negative thinking. Now, the rest of her life had purpose. Yes, purpose in crisis, is God's specialty, loving and forgiving unconditionally. Restoration for her family came but at that point came a diagnosis of cancer with 5 years to live. Now her heart believed God could even purpose this for good. If not we would believe God to be a punisher or mean. In fact, she got e-mails saying she was being punished. But she knew without reservation that perfect love cast out fear of punishment. She asked us, is there any fear that is holding us back from fully embracing God's love? If we believe God is not for us in all situations even our worst case scenarios, we have no purpose and cannot be used by God for his good. The worst case scenario can be used by God. Pain has a purpose in God's Kingdom here and now. Palms 86:5 "You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you." (NIV)

Kasey challenged us with 2 more questions:

1. If you do not believe God's love has qualified you to be loved by him, you have never entered a relationship with Jesus Christ. Romans 10:13
2. If you are a Christian but do not know you are completely free in his love, now come to Jesus and receive his truth freely. John 8:31-32
Kasey said, "She knows you are getting it because you start to love like God". Never perfect but on the right pathway. We start to love other people without limitations, qualifications or expectations.
She offered us a time of prayer, to seek God in a real personal way for all our needs. Knowing Jesus, who can cleanse, restore and give more than we can ever dream or image. We prayed for all our needs to be met—freedom from fear and eternal salvation forever.
Amen
Palms 63: 3-5 ""I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you."(NIV)

