



“Let Success Consume You”

Ben Davis

Sometimes success at a good thing can cause you to drift from the _____ things.

When we get consumed with success, we start _____ from what really matters.

Solomon says “_____ from me on this one. I let success _____ me and it didn’t take me to the place I wanted to go.”

Ecclesiastes 2:17-23

LIE: My success defines my _____.

- Consumed by _____

If I could just be successful at _____, then I’ll be seen as _____.

- Caught in the _____ trap
- Compromise your _____

TRUTH: My _____ determines my _____.

“Failure is to succeed at something that really doesn’t matter.”

Small Group Discussion Questions

Success can be a good thing, but when that drive to succeed consumes you, it can wreck your life. It happens when you trade a good thing – success in your career – for more important things, like your relationships with your kids, your marriage or your relationship with God.

- What are some signs in your own life that you may be prioritizing success over more important things?

Read Ecclesiastes 2:17-23

- Why do you think the drive to succeed is so strong?
- Do you agree with the idea that success will not ultimately satisfy?
- How does our contemporary society view success and possessions?
- What ultimate reality is Solomon addressing when it comes to success and possessions? How does this reality help shape our view of what is truly important?

Lie: My Success Defines My Identity

If you believe this lie, three things will happen:

1. You will be consumed by winning

Ben talked about Parker Palmer and his opportunity to become the president of the university. Parker listed reasons why he wouldn’t want the job: Wouldn’t be able to teach anymore, all the politics that would go along with the position, fundraising. At the end of the day the reasons for not taking the job outweighed the reasons for taking the job.

- What are you currently trying to be successful at? How do you know it’s something you really even want?
- What steps or process can you go through to ensure what you think you want is indeed what you want to spend your time, energy and effort on?

2. You will get caught in the comparison trap

When we compare, we generally compare a strength we have to a weakness in someone else. The flip side is we compare our own

weakness to strength in someone else. These two comparisons lead to pride and to feelings of inferiority.

Read Ecclesiastes 4:4

- In what areas are you tempted to compare yourself with others? What are the dangers in comparing to others?
- What was Solomon's take on comparing?
- What are some strategies or techniques we can engage in to free ourselves from the comparison trap?

Truth: My Identity Determines My Success

Our identity, our worth and value, is rooted in two things.

The first is we are created in God's image. The second is that Jesus – the second person of the Trinity, The Son of God and God himself – loved us enough to come to earth and die a horrible death so that we could have a relationship with God.

If we could internalize these two things, we would not feel the need to be successful in order to have value.

- Practically speaking, how would your life look different if you internalized the truth of your identity as someone created in the image of God and loved by God?
- What are some of the ways we can grow in our belief that our identity is found in God rather than things, possessions, and who others say we are?

Wrap Up

What other points from Ben's message resonated with you? What was something you heard for the first time? What steps will you take to apply the message to your life this week?

Pray