



IDENTITY – CREATED BY GOD

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Introduction

Today we start our journey in our new series Church Alive. **We're trusting that each one of us** will awakened in our God-given gifts and callings in a fresh way and begin to serve one another and make a difference in this city.

Our first stop on this journey is to examine the topic of Identity, which we will covered in the next four weeks. Today we will look at being created by God.

Created by God

When you look in the mirror, what do you see? Who are you?

Perhaps you would answer: an accountant, a mother, a divorcee or maybe you will **say I'm just** a massive failure.

How you see yourself is of utmost importance. It determines how you live and respond to **others. Your fruitfulness in God's kingdom depends on it** and it will even affect your destiny.

How do you see yourself? Do you see yourself through the eyes of the world, your own judgment, social media, your family or **God's Word?**

I would like to propose that to determine your identity, you should look to your Maker, your Creator. This is what we will do now.

1. You were planned by God

Do you know that God formed you in your mother's womb? That you were in his mind before ever you were created, before your mother and father had any plans about you? And that the days of your life were written in his book before you breathed your first breathe. God was intentional about your life. He took time in forming you exactly how you are. You started out as **God's and you are still His.**

He made no mistakes. You were no accident of nature, no random egg and sperm collision, you were delicately and carefully crafted by loving hands.

Psalms 139:15-16 AMPC

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You when I was being formed in secret [and] intricately and curiously wrought [as if embroidered with various colors] in the depths of the earth [a region of darkness and mystery].

¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed substance, and in Your book all the days [of my life] were written before ever they took shape, when as yet there was none of them.

My Friend wrote: I have an image of Him having a cup of coffee. His coffee table covered in papers, drawings and plans of our life - like an architect, scouring over all of the details. Seeing a design of us complete, sin and all and saying: **Yip, that's the one I'll make today!**

You were made by God on purpose, for a purpose. He even chose the time and place in which you'd live.

2. You have intrinsic value and worth

You are created in the image and likeness of God.

Genesis 1:26 ESV *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..."*

And He did it. God created mankind, male and female, in His own image and likeness. He did not do this with any of his other created beings - plants, animals, celestial bodies or even His angels. He only did this with human beings.

We were made to resemble God, with similar characteristics to Him. After sin entered the world and the human experience, this image got spoiled to varying degrees. However, the capacity to resemble God; the blueprint, is still in every human being!

Illustration: A silver coin, bearing the image of its President, does not lose its value, no matter how tarnished or dented it becomes.

Because of Adam, sin separated us from God and we needed a Saviour – a rebirth into God's family. We were all born into sin because of Adam's fall (sin nature was passed down through the generations), but Jesus came to REDEEM US – to buy us back!

God values us so much that He sacrificed the life of His own Son to redeem us, while we were still sinners.

3. Jesus came to RESTORE OUR IDENTITY

Romans 5:8 ESV *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

Those who are redeemed by Christ are in the process of being restored to the original image of God – into our new identities in God. OUR NEW SPIRITUAL DNA

[Interesting facts about our DNA:

Our bodies are made up of 100 Trillion cells. Each cell has its own complete set of instructions for making us, like a recipe book for the body. This set of instructions is known as our genome and is made up of DNA. Each cell in the body, for example, a skin cell or a liver cell, contains this same set of instructions.

Within DNA is a unique chemical code that guides our growth, development and health.

If unwound and linked together, the strands of DNA in each of your cells would be 6 feet long. With 100 trillion cells in your body, that means if all your DNA were put end-to-end, it would stretch over 110 billion miles. It would stretch from the earth to the sun and back - 600 times!

God made us this way. Isn't that incredible?

I discovered another interesting fact: About 99.9% of the DNA of every person on the planet is the same; **it's the 0.1%** that makes us unique. We are all 99.9% alike but also undeniably unique. That is beautiful and comforting to me.]

Ephesians 4:24 AMPC *And put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God's image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness.*

Ephesians 4:24 ESV *and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*

Ephesians 4:23 holds the KEY:

"and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,"

HOW DO WE DO THIS?

A. Mirror of the Word

- Mufasa – **"Remember who you are"** (see link of video clip <https://youtu.be/hKOLKIHf2gl>)
- James – **"... don't be a hearer who forgets but a doer who acts"** (James 1:22-25)
- **Jacob's sheep** and goats: produced spotted and speckled offspring according to what they looked at while breeding (Genesis 30:31-43)
- **Abraham's stars and sand**: God kept the promise in front of his eyes, by day and by night. (Genesis 13:16; Genesis 15:5)

Keep the Word before us. Meditate on its truths. Kick out the lies. Let the false image crumble and break off and the new true identity come through.

B. Witness of the Spirit

Romans 8:15-16 ESV

¹⁵ *For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"*

¹⁶ *The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*

1 John 4:18 **Fear has torment... perfect love drives fear out of your heart!** If we have fear, it means we don't have full revelation of God's love – we have work to do – to renew our minds - to overthrow the wrong thinking patterns – and replace them with the Truth.

Conclusion

Do you want to be free of fear, to walk in your destiny in God, in fruitfulness? To Know and Walk in your NEW IDENTITY IN CHRIST.

There is work to do – to renew your thinking to line up with God's. APPLY YOURSELF TO THIS.

Look in the mirror daily – remind yourself of who you are in Christ

What I used to do: Stick Scriptures on my mirror and Who I am in Christ on the back on my door and read it every day. (Memory verses like in children's church)

Listen to the witness of the Spirit within you.

Challenge:

Consider this message today. What ONE THING will you DO to apply this message? Be a DOER. Internalise the truths until they start to become your new identity.

Lyrics from song "No Longer Slaves":

From my mother's womb

You have chosen me

Love has called my name

I've been born again

Into Your family

Your blood flows through my veins

I'm no longer a slave to fear

I am a child of God♥
