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Personhood

In Jesus, we don't lose our true selves. We become our true selves. By placing our faith in the work of the cross our value and dignity is restored. We are remade into God's version of ourselves.

Only God can tell us who we are

If you were to create a new invention you would have the right to give that invention a name, a purpose, and a value. God made us and he alone has that right. No person can tell us who we are or what we're worth, including ourselves.

Read

20 But that is not the way you learned Christ!— 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 **to put off your old self**, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to **be renewed in the spirit of your minds**, 24 and to **put on the new self**, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Eph 4:20-24

We renew our minds when we decide to believe God over ourselves and our experiences. God is true, his ways are true, and what he says about us is true! Unfortunately, these truths don't become real to us overnight. To replace lies with truths requires repetition and meditation.

There was no identity crisis in the life of Jesus Christ. He knew who he was. He knew where He had come from, and why he was here. And he knew where He was going. And when are that liberated, then you can serve.

-Howard G. Hendricks

What God says about us

Define yourself radically as one beloved by God. This is the true self. Every other identity is illusion.

Brennan Manning

The Bible gives us a remarkable window into how God sees us. All us have a way we think about ourselves. The question before us is will we believe His Words or the personal profile we have created for ourselves?

Usually this personal profile is shaped by our external actions and not by an inherent sense of identity. It's founded in the belief, "I am what I do." The personal profile we create can tell us we're not enough, or it can have the opposite effect and fill us with pride. If this false identity isn't removed we can spend a lifetime swinging from insecurity to pride and back again.

We have to begin believing His words about us. The journey begins with the humble realization that we are powerless to find our true selves with Jesus. Only he can remove our false self and guide us to our true selves.

Putting it in action

Try this: As you're reading the Bible ask the question, "What does this passage say about who I am?"

Try this: Read the list below. Which identity statements stand out to you?

- Born again (I Peter 1:23)
- A child of God (John 1:12)
- A saint (I Corinthians 1:2)
- One with God the Father and Jesus the Son (John 17:23)
- A servant of God (Romans 6:22)
- I am freed from the power of sin (Romans 6:23)
- A joint heir with Christ (Romans 8:17)
- More than a conqueror through Christ (Romans 8:37)
- The image and glory of God (I Corinthians 11:7)
- A new creation in Christ (II Corinthians 5:17)
- An ambassador for Christ (II Corinthians 5:20)
- Chosen by God to be holy and blameless (Ephesians 1:4)
- Accepted in the beloved (Ephesians 1:6)
- God's handiwork (Ephesians 2:10)
- A fellow citizen with the saints in God's household (Ephesians 2:19)

Discussion Questions

(If you haven't discussed this already) Which descriptions above feel hard for you to believe about yourself? Which descriptions feel easier to believe?

How has your false self played a role in your life so far?

What is something you can do this week to renew your mind in your true self?

Go Deeper - Resources to develop your identity in Christ

Identity List from the Bible

The Bondage Breaker - Neil T Anderson, 100 Identity Truths

Books

Bondage Breaker - Neil T. Anderson

Abba's Child - Brennan Manning

Read and Meditate on

1 Corinthians 5:16-21

Ephesians 1:3-14