

MONTH ONE

My True Identity



*“So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.”*

(Genesis 1:27, NIV)



An Identity Crisis



“The true identity theft is not financial. It’s not in cyberspace. It’s spiritual. It’s been taken.”
Steven Covey

We live in a world where identity theft is rampant. Every year millions of people have their personal information stolen by criminals. However, millions more are affected by an identity crisis. They don’t know who they are. They are trying to find out who they really are. This can lead to two consequences:

- A. You let _____ define who you are.
1. You can be defined by your parents’ expectations.
 2. You can be defined by your siblings’ achievements.
 3. You can be defined by your peers’ accomplishments.
 4. You can be defined by your wife’s perceptions.

When you don't know who you are, you let others define you.

B. You are defined by “_____.”

1. You are defined by your occupation.
2. You are defined by your degree.
3. You are defined by your bank account.
4. You are defined by your car, your house, and your possessions.

As Christian men our identities are not defined by the things we have or by others. We are defined by the One who created us.

Made in the Image of God

“Spiritual identity means we are not what we do or what people say about us. And we are not what we have. We are the beloved daughters and sons of God.”
Henri Nouwen

A. We are made in the _____ of God.

B. That image was marred by sin.

1. Adam and Eve believed the lie that their identity wasn't complete in God.
2. All of humanity now searches to find their identity.

C. The Gospel tells us that He knew who He was, and because He showed us who God is we can unequivocally know whom God created us to be.

D. Noted sociologist Charles Cooley proposed a theory called the “_____,” which suggests that people contrive their identities from how the most important person in their lives sees them.

1. The most important person in our lives determines how we see ourselves, ultimately determining our self-identity.
2. The only One we can base our identities upon is the One who created us in His image.

Our True Identities

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us.”

(Ephesians 1:3–8, NIV)

- A. **Blessed.** Jesus Christ brought us a blessing. Through Him, we are blessed. God always does what is best for us, even when we don’t deserve it. We may try and fight Him, we may try to do things our own way, but God always looks upon us with favor. We are blessed.
- B. _____. In Christ, we are God’s chosen. He never says, “I’ll settle for you because there is no one else left.” Instead, He says, “I choose you because I created you and because I want to spend eternity with you.”
- C. **Loved.** He doesn’t love us because of what we do or don’t do. We can’t earn more of His love or lose any of His love. In reality, His loving us has more to do with who He is rather than who we are. God is love, and He loves us unconditionally. He loves us with an everlasting love. His love for us won’t even run out in eternity. He has loved us, continues to love us, and will love us forever.
- D. _____. We are His sons; He is never ashamed of us. There is nothing we can do that will cause Him to turn His back on us. And one day, we will inherit everything He has. We are sons of the heavenly Father.
- E. **Accepted.** We don’t ever have to look for acceptance from the Father because we already have it. We don’t need to gain acceptance; we are accepted.
- F. _____. Jesus was willing to leave the splendor of heaven and redeem us. Because he redeemed us, we can be forgiven. When we fall short of the mark or when we are blatantly disobedient, He still forgives us when we ask. He doesn’t keep score or choose to

MONTH ONE: MY TRUE IDENTITY

remember. The sins that we can't forget, He won't remember. The sins that others won't forget, He has already taken care of. There is more grace in God's heart than there is sin in our past.

My identity isn't found in my degrees, bank account, job description, or in the car I drive. It is found in Christ Jesus. In Him, I am blessed, chosen, loved, a son of God, accepted, redeemed, and forgiven.

