

The Power of Identity

1) God's Image Bearer

**You can't be who you are until you
know who you are**

**If we don't understand our true
creation identity:**

- ✓ **We will search for a sense of
identity in the wrong places...or...**
- ✓ **We may attempt to create a fake
identity...or...**
- ✓ **You may become a clone of
someone else...or...**
- ✓ **You may just let someone else tell
you who you are**

I Am Created In God's Image

While God is not dependent on any other being, we are totally dependent on Him

'For in him we live, and move, and have our being....'
(Acts 17:28)

Our deepest sense of identity can only be found in understanding and embracing our Creator/creature status

'Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals and over all the creatures that move along the ground"'

(Gen.1:26)

'Everything else God created He did so by commanding. When He made man He did so by consulting: "let us..."' (Calvin)

This gave the greatest dignity possible to mankind

David marvelled at this

'When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have ordained, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you visit him?'

(Psa.8:3-4)

**Yet God is mindful (to mark, think upon, keep in remembrance) of us
and visits us (to give attention to or care for)**

How?

**He crowned us with glory
and honour**

**Our deepest sense of identity and self
can only be found in understanding
and embracing our relationship to God**

He is the Creator...we are His creatures

- ✓ **We were created in God's image, but
we are not God**
- ✓ **I am not God; but I am His image-
bearer**
- ✓ **I am not the great I Am; but I am
what I am by the grace of God**

Identity theft occurred at the Fall

Adam was sold a lie – ‘you will be like God’

This is identity confusion – we were made to *reflect* God’s glory, not *steal* it

Yet they made a grab for divine status and power. They believed the lie: ‘You don’t need God, you can be God’

**The moral image of God was shattered
and man was left his own image**

***'This is the book of the genealogy of
Adam. In the day that God created man,
He made him in the likeness of God... And
Adam lived one hundred and thirty years,
and begot a son in his own likeness, after
his image, and named him Seth'***

(Gen.5:1,3)

This image is one of sin, self, flesh

**God sent Jesus to save us from sin and
restore the image of God in us**

**He came in our image but not as a direct
offspring of a human being. Every human
being has its beginning by offspring or
generation. In the womb of a mother a
male seed penetrates a female egg
resulting in the life of a human being.
This is generation or perpetuation of life**

**But neither Adam nor Jesus received
their human life by *generation* but by
*creation***

So Jesus' human life was not by natural generation but supernatural creation

As Adam's body was made from the dust by God, Jesus' body was made of a woman by God

So now there were two different kinds of man, one flesh and the other Spirit

Jesus is the *'second man'* (1 Cor.15:47) and also *'the last Adam'* (1 Cor.15:45)

Jesus is both God and Man

As God, He could do anything. As man He could do nothing by Himself

'Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner''

(Jn.5:19)

He never tried to be the cause of His own effect

He lived in total dependence upon His Father and His godliness was the direct result of the manifestation of God's life through Him

'No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him'
(Jn.1:18)

No one has seen electricity. But a light bulb expresses that which is invisible, in terms of light. We can't say that the light bulb gives light. It has no power to do so apart from the current it receives

So Jesus, living by dependence on the life of His Father demonstrated the divine life in a human being

The humanity of Jesus was totally available to the Father

***'...when He came into the world, He said:
"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come—in the volume of the book it is written of Me—to do Your will, O God'" (Heb.10:5-8)***

The life of God in the soul of man is the only thing that will reveal the image of God

We were born uninhabited by God, wholly inhabited by sin. The chief characteristic of our Adamic life form is self, or sin. That which is born of flesh is flesh.

Jesus said, *'You must be born again'*

When we receive Christ into our lives we are born again. We receive more than forgiveness of sins; we receive life. His life!

'The first man Adam became a living being. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit'

(1 Cor.15:45)

'He who has the Son has life (zoe); he who does not have the Son of God does not have life'

(1 Jn.5:12)

Possessing the life of God means the image of God can be restored in us

'...and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him'

(Col.3:10)

'...that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness' **(Eph.4:23)**

What does it take to be godly? God

**Godliness is God reproducing Himself in us
through Christ by the Spirit**

***'Of His own will He brought us forth by the
word of truth, that we might be a kind of
firstfruits of His creatures'***

(James 1:18)

**In Christ righteousness is our position.
Holiness is our experience, as we behold
Him and see our true identity in Him**

**We are transformed by the renewing of our
minds**

**I keep fighting voices in my mind that
say I'm not enough**

**Every single lie that tells me I will never
measure up**

**Am I more than just the sum of every
high and every low?**

**Remind me once again just who I am,
because I need to know**

**You say I am loved when I can't feel a
thing**

**You say I am strong when I think I am
weak**

**And You say I am held when I am falling
short**

**And when I don't belong, You say I am
Yours**

And I believe, oh, I believe

What You say of me

I believe

**The only thing that matters now is
everything You think of me**

**In You I find my worth, in You I find my
identity**