

BIBLE STUDY SERIES:

TRUSTING THE FATHER

IDENTITY

Chris Badenhorst

IDENTITY

INTENTION:

Whom we are is more than what we see in the mirror. When we are Born-Again, we are instantly changed from being of this world to being of our Father God. Our identity becomes that of our Father in Heaven, and just like our sibling Jesus Christ. How fantastic is that!

How you see yourself can affect your everyday life. Let's know we are Born of God!

I. TOPIC:

We want to look at Identity—our identity as humans in relation to Christ Jesus (also a human).

Back at Lesson 001, we looked at God's original Creation (which He proclaimed as “good”). It was at Creation that He set into motion a governing Law of Design. Firstly, He Himself created every plant, every animal, and every human at the beginning. From the 7th Day of creation, He has been resting from that Creation (no longer creating). Having, from those days instructed each plant, each animal, and each human to “reproduce after its own kind” ([Genesis 1](#)).

So, as human, we are the by-product (offspring) of the first humans: Adam (that is both male and female). And from that beginning, all mankind are offspring of them: the resulting product (child) reproduced after its own kind (their parents). And we can see this result in the appearance of the child representing a merger of both the male and the female parent who created the child—the child thus bearing the image of their creator (their parents).

Genetics, biology, and science has confirmed this Law of God's Creation. Trees reproduce trees, cats reproduce cats, dogs reproduce dogs, fish reproduce fish, birds reproduce birds, etc. And humans reproduce humans. Quite simple.

Because we are, in this way, created by our parents, we identify ourselves with them. Even the nature vs nurture upbringing defines that identity: engraining positive/negative nurturing and positive/negative DNA; and instilling habits, iniquities, beliefs, physical characteristics, and more, from parent to child. We, in that sense, become our parents (we can see an in-grained relation of the child to the parents).

But here is where we confuse our identity and are often deceived in it, both as children and as parents. Our identity is not who bore us or who raised us, our identity is and should always be the Lord! For it is the Lord (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost) that said at Creation that we humans are, “made in THEIR Image”. This is something we have lost in those thousands of years since Adam. However, since then, we have experienced the completed work of Jesus Christ for humanity (as a human, and God)!

As such, whether we are male or female, we need to see our identity as being Christ Jesus—renewing our minds and hearts to this revelation...even if it means rejecting our own natural heritage!

- Refer also: <https://cbadenhorst.blogspot.com/2018/08/heart-of-god-part-1.html>
<https://cbadenhorst.blogspot.com/2019/02/heart-of-god-part-ii.html>
Bible Study Lessons 012-017 – Tabernacle: Body, Mind, Soul, Heart, Spirit
Bible Study Lesson 028 – The Humanity of Jesus
Bible Study Lesson 040 – Final Judgment
Bible Study Lesson 044 – Our Duality (Flesh & Spirit)

II. READING: [2 Corinthians 5:1-21](#) (ESV) {PoG}

For we know that if the tent {tabernacle} that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, 3 if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. 4 For while we are still in this tent {tabernacle}, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

6 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So whether we are at home or away, we {are accepted by Him}. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ [{1 John 4:17}](#), so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil {to believe or to not believe}.

11 Therefore, knowing the fear {reverence} of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. 12 We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to

boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. 13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. 14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he *{that person}* is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, *{you are reconciled with God}*. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

III. RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:

A. [Galatians 3:25-28](#) (ESV) {PoG}

But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian *{the Law}*, 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Question: What do you feel God was saying (or what He was eliminating) by saying this?

Response:

B. No partiality ("no respecter of persons"):

[Acts 10:34-38,44-46a](#) (ESV)

So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36 As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), 37 you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

44 While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. 45 And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. 46 For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God.

[Romans 2:11](#) (ESV)

For God shows no partiality.

[James 2:1](#) (ESV)

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

Question: What does it mean to you that “God shows no partiality”—and that we shouldn’t either?

Response:

C. [Hebrews 10:9-10,12,16-23](#) (ESV) {PoG}

then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. 10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.

16 “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws *{the Law of believing and Loving (1 John 3:23)}* on their hearts, and write them on their minds,” 17 then he adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” 18 Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. 19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience *{sin conscience}* and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Question: Do you identify with your sins or your righteousness?

Response:

D. [Romans 7:15-25 & 8:1-11](#) (ESV)

For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. 17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but

those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Question: Can you feel the “dual-personality” that seems to be your own fight between your flesh-identity and spirit-identity?

Response:

E. Our inner battle:

[Ephesians 4:22-24](#) (ESV)

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.

[Colossians 3:1-14](#) (ESV)

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. 5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. 12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

[Galatians 5:11-25](#) (ESV)

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Question: How do we identify what is of the flesh and what is of the Spirit? Where is the battle between our old self and our new self?

Response:

IV. FURTHER THOUGHT:

A. [Romans 10:9-13](#) (ESV)

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. 11 For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13 For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved”.

Thoughts: Paul quotes a scripture ([Joel 2:32](#)) that talks about our salvation. The words "call upon" speak of making our identity as His (Christ's). The Greek translates to:

Call Upon – [G1941](#): *epikaleō*

1. to put a name upon, to surname
 - a. to permit one's self to be surnamed
2. to be named after someone

It's as if we are changing our surname to His—our identity no longer whom we think we are (our core identity), to whom we really are (our ideal identity). We truly become adopted by the Father, as His child, into His family, with HIS NAME! We share the same name as Jesus Christ.

B. Read through the Parable of the Prodigal Son: [Luke 15:11-32](#) (ESV).

We can see that both sons did not understand their inheritance or value. The prodigal (younger son) didn't expect to be welcomed home, thinking he was a nobody; yet was never accused by his father of losing his value or "sonship". For the older son that stayed home, he saw his identity as a servant and not a son, working for the inheritance—this led to bitterness and anger that his younger brother received praise from the father when he didn't do any work for that reward.

NB: This is also a representation of the Jews and the Greeks: the Greeks did not expect an inheritance and the Jews felt they had worked for that inheritance. Yet God's gifts not on our merits, but on His Grace.

The father accused the older son of not understanding this, having been given the inheritance (rights) to claim all the father had as his own—this being the same inheritance the younger son was given as well. This is what the father showed the younger when he returned, throwing a feast.

We should then view ourselves, not as either son did of themselves, but as the father saw each son: as a son worthy of everything the father has. Which is exactly as our Father in Heaven sees us—so, whether you are someone who's tried to work for God's goodness, or one that feels unworthy to be called a son, the Lord will receive you into His family as His own—remember you have been legally given His surname and identity!

C. What do you call yourself?

Because often our thoughts and our words define who we are, creating our own identities: “ugly, fat, thin, bald, afraid, shy, timid, stupid, blind, crippled, sick, having allergies, mentally ill, worthless, a whore, a paedophile, a gangster, a specific race, a specific nationality, a personality type, religious denomination, and more”. When we use these terms for ourselves (or others), we limit whom we really are, instead of believing whom God says we are. And when we hold onto these “anti-identities”, we create conflict in us as these relate to the flesh when we are spiritual beings ([Galatians 5:16-24](#) and [1 Corinthians 6:9-11](#)). And this conflict of identity keeps us from truly experiencing the “righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit” that is the Kingdom of God ([Romans 14:17](#)).

Take heart though, if you struggle with an anti-identity, there is no need to fear any reprisal from the Lord; for He will meet you where you are and will not hold back from gifting you all He has, and always loving you!

D. Arthur Meintjes: Adoption. Loved and accepted. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=My62eVLmAHE>

E. Carlie Terradez: Who Do You Think You Are? <https://carlieterradez.wordpress.com/who-do-you-think-you-are/>

Change your confession, change your life. Start speaking out who God says you are today!

I am _____ (your name)

I am a party waiting to happen, **1 Peter 1:8**! Angels rejoice over me, demons flee from me, **James 4:7**, and God himself dances over me with singing, **Zephaniah 3:17**. I am the bearer of good news, **Isaiah 52:7**, a minister of reconciliation, **2 Corinthians 5:18**, the carrier of the King of Glory, **Colossians 1:27**. I am the righteousness of Christ, **2 Corinthians 5:21** and a temple of the Holy Spirit, **1 Corinthians 6:19**. I have an unction from the Holy one and I know all things, **1 John 2:20** I have the mind of Christ, **1 Corinthians 2:16**, I am anointed by God, **1 John 2:27**, And I was created by Him for good works, **Ephesians 2:10**! I have favour with God, favour with man and a good understanding, **Luke 2:52**. I am chosen by God, **John 15:16**, **Ephesians 1:4**, I have been sanctified, **1 Corinthians 6:11**, and made truly Holy. As Jesus is, so am I in this world, **1 John 4:17**! I am always on God's mind, He thinks about me constantly, **Psalms 139:17-18**. Even before the creation of the world, I was planned, **Ephesians 1:4**. I am a child of the King, adopted into his family, **Ephesians 1:5**, An heir in Christ, **Romans 8:17**, Accepted in the Beloved, **Ephesians 1:6**. I am blessed with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places, **Ephesians 1:3**. I lack no good thing, **Psalms 34:10**. I have an abundance for every good work. **2 Corinthians 9:8**. I was predestined by God for success, **Romans 8:28-30**. I am placed and seated with Him, a king and priest, part of a chosen generation, a peculiar people, **1 Peter 2:9**. I am blessed coming in and going out, **Deuteronomy 28:6**. My family is blessed, my flocks are blessed, **Deuteronomy 28:4**, and everything I touch prospers, **Deuteronomy 28:8**. I am the head and not the tail, above the circumstances and not beneath them, **Deuteronomy 28:13**. No weapon formed against me can prosper, **Isaiah 54:17**, no plague can come near my dwelling-my house or my body, **Psalms 91:10**! And nothing can separate me from the love of God—not angels or demons, not principalities or powers, nothing in this world or out of it, **Romans 8:38-39**! I am equipped with the full Armor of God, **Ephesians 6:13**, packed full of the Holy Spirit, with more than enough power inside of me to raise the dead, **Romans 8:11**, heal the sick and cast out devils, **Matthew 10:1**. My faith can move mountains, **Mark 11:23**, my words contain life and death, **Proverbs 18:21**, my life was bought at a price-Jesus covered it, **1 Corinthians 6:20**. My days are appointed, **Psalms 139:16** my life is protected, **Mark 16:18** angels encamp around me, **Psalms 34:7**, and the blessings of God encircle me, **Psalms 103:4**, go before me and overtake me, **Deuteronomy 28:2**. The creator of the universe, my Dad, loves me with an everlasting love, **Jeremiah 31:3**. He is with me always, **Hebrews 13:5**, He thinks about me constantly, **Psalms 139:17**. He knows everything about me, even the number of hairs on my head, **Matthew 10:30**. His love for me is inescapable, insurmountable and irrefutable. I am all round awesome, just ask my Dad!

Bible Study: Lesson 011



V. CONCLUDING REMARKS / NOTES (LESSON 011):

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