



YOUR IDENTITY: IS IT STABLE? (IDENTITY THEFT)

Jesus said:

¹⁰ *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it **abundantly**.* John 10:10 ^(NASB)

Christianity has reached a critical point!

The malady of ignorance and unbelief is an epidemic in today's Christian world! ¹

The solution to this epic problem is clearly found in God's word. But many Christians are suspicious of God's word, rejecting it as the ultimate source of truth for salvation and inspiration for daily living. Rather, they see it as having little or no relevance to their lives in today's fast paced technologically driven world. Deceived, they instead seek alternatives to satisfy the inner spiritual hunger for identity in the form and function of earthly religions which in substance deny the very existence of God. This trend has become the norm for many in Christianity who have lost sight of the fact that all other gods are impotent figments of mankind's imagination. ²

*Reader; ask yourself this question,
"In what or whom am I finding my identity?"*

How you answer will be a reflection of your belief system. If you are *not* a follower of Jesus Christ (an unbeliever) you will by default embrace an identity found outside of God. If you are a follower of Jesus Christ (a Christian)³ who embraces your true Biblical identity⁴ then you are living in the fullness of your design⁵ but if are deceived, by default you will embrace the same belief system as and function like an unbeliever.⁶

Man's intellect is plagued by many age old questions which are answered with empty speculations that never satisfy but pass for enlightenment.⁷ The Bible has the only true logical answer to, the origin of man,⁸ the reason for man's existence,⁹ man's nature without God,¹⁰ man's separation from God,¹¹ the problem of sin and death,¹² God's heart of love for man,¹³ His desire for intimacy with man,¹⁴ the timeless solution of salvation,¹⁵ eternal union with God,¹⁶ the gift of LIFE,¹⁷ the meaning and purpose for life in the now and in eternity¹⁸, and assurance of hope eternal.¹⁹

Only the Cross of Jesus Christ offers a true solution to mankind's identity dilemma,²⁰ one that functions independently of all man's technology and is in essence as timeless and measureless as God Himself.²¹

Observation and experience tell us that all mankind has an inbuilt need for a stable personal identity. This need is manifested by a pursuit for significance that begins at birth and for most of mankind continues as a lifetime motivation. For mankind to satisfy his inner need, he requires a source from which he can derive his significance.²²

The stability of that source will determine the strength of his identity.²³ If the chosen source lacks permanence, an individual will struggle with knowing his significance often switching from one source to another. Woven within the context of the source for their identity is the meaning of life which provides each individual with his own sense of stability.

The physical nature of mankind overtly drives him to base his identity on his own physicality that is referenced through the world around him in relationship to other individuals.²⁴ This focus on the physical dominates mankind's function and is the source for the memories, experiences and emotions which many naturally understand, embrace and believe to be the source of their individuality.²⁵

Every remembered event is cemented into our brains by the emotional response that it brought with it. This develops a very unstable personal identity because it is solely derived from the ever-changing physical world based on fluctuating standards for relationships and their resulting emotional responses. The futility of this search for a sense of self,²⁶ is made obvious by the general discontent portrayed in most of mankind by their unrelenting search for their personal significance. This very common journey of futility is perceived as the norm by most of mankind and is played out until physical death.²⁷

This futile search for identity is true of mankind in general but what about the Christian?

One would assume that the uniqueness of Christianity with its biblically based belief in and its singular focus on an unchanging God,²⁸ who is the Creator and Sustainer of this universe,²⁹ would produce followers that had an unwavering identity.³⁰ But in fact the opposite is most often true! Christians frequently demonstrate a desperate attachment to the same methods of seeking identity as those employed by the rest of mankind in their search for significance.

The problem at the core of this unbiblical approach to life is that most Christians are not taught of their true Biblical identity,³¹ so by default, their significance is pursued in the same manner as an unbeliever which generates for the believer a groundless significance. Because this

pursuit contradicts the very essence of Christianity, it produces turmoil in the believer that is evidenced by the conflict and frustration written on their faces.³² Their unrelenting drive to seek identity in the same manner as the rest of mankind is fruitless and empty. To combat this emptiness, Christians invent emotionally driven yet meaningless relationships hoping in some way to connect with something that will satisfy their futile search for an unchanging identity.

Interwoven in mankind's quest for identity and the meaning to life is the concept of the eternal, an existence beyond the physical, something unseen to the human eye but yet alive within the desire of mankind.³³ This desire is frequently denied, labeled as foolish and ignorant thinking by those who believe physical death ends all existence.³⁴ Others who embrace the concept of an unseen eternal realm as a reality, live under the illusion that their collection of memories is all that constitutes an eternal existence.

But in the midst of man's earthly speculations and opinions, the Christian stands alone with the knowledge, understanding, and promise of the eternal.³⁵ The Christian receives God as his Creator and Savior acknowledging that God (Who is unseen) is the origin of his desire which makes alive the promise of an eternal union with his Creator,³⁶ a promise that provides hope, significance, meaning and purpose to life.³⁷

As stated before, the stability of our identity will totally depend upon the steadfastness of the source in which we seek to find it. It is clear from experience that our physical world cannot and was not designed to provide that stability so the solution must be found in what is unseen rather than what is seen. To acknowledge that the solution to our wavering identity lies in the unseen requires a profound step of faith.³⁸

This step of faith, for the believer, is grounded in the personal revelation of the unseen God provided through the knowledge of Himself as revealed in the Bible.³⁹ The inspired authority of the Bible clearly states that God exists as Spirit,⁴⁰ is un-changing and places Him as the Creator of, and Sovereign over all that is seen and unseen.⁴¹ God as revealed in the Bible is undeniably the only true constant entity in the universe.⁴²

The rationale of humanity instinctively recognizes and acknowledges that there is a powerful yet unseen element that governs their physicality. The Bible confirms the origin of this unseen nature as being purposed by God at creation to be a reflection of Himself⁴³ and is designed to be the source of life and significance for all mankind.⁴⁴ But mankind's denial of a unique God designed spiritual component is reflected in their subsequent rejection of God,⁴⁵ revealing a darkened and paralyzed spirit that prevents them from knowing the only true unwavering source for identity.

In reality, the Christian is the only one equipped to participate in this step of faith that opens the door to knowing his identity. By putting his faith in the saving power of our Lord Jesus Christ (Immanuel, God with us), God has transformed the spiritual component of every Christian thus making him a *Child of God*.⁴⁶ This transformation is rooted in the historical Cross of Jesus Christ that divides all history and divides the spiritual condition of mankind.⁴⁷ The sinful abyss of darkness that divides each individual from God could only be bridged by the blood sacrifice of Christ on the Cross.⁴⁸

The darkened spirit of a man is wooed by God.⁴⁹ Only by his choice,⁵⁰ coupled with faith, will he receive the forgiveness of his sin through the shed blood of Christ. Instantly the governing spiritual reality of that individual is radically and mysteriously exchanged.⁵¹ In that moment, his spiritually paralyzed, dark and sinful component is miraculously united with Christ in His timeless yet historical crucifixion. This individual's faith spiritually immersed him with Christ in a spiritual death, burial and resurrection that produced a new identity found in and empowered by the eternal God.⁵²

This transformation or regeneration is the essence of a Christian's new identity and is firmly and eternally established in God. The believer, by faith, is now enlightened and empowered by his spiritual connection to God (through the indwelling Holy Spirit), to have an intuitive understanding of God,⁵³ a communion with God which confirms his identity.⁵⁴ The Spirit of God imparts to the believer eternal life giving him assurance of who God is,⁵⁵ who the believer is in relation to God and the reality of a glorified eternal existence beyond the grave.⁵⁶

This is the good news of the Gospel – believe it is for you – step out in faith to receive from Jesus Christ a new stable and sure identity that causes all others to pale and fade away by comparison.

Without believing and receiving this spiritual transformation, mankind is forever mired in an identity of darkness, death and futility that is rooted in sin. Born as a child of evil, this leaves mankind with only one option to finding their significance and that lies in their emotionally driven memories formed in relation with a physical world. Sadly, much of Christianity denies, is ignorant of, or fails to recognize the spiritual component of mankind and thus lives imprisoned to the same empty and powerless methods of establishing their identity. The Christian, who lives oblivious to the reality that the eternal unseen God has already spiritually regenerated them, is living below their created design and without intent they render the good news of the Gospel empty and meaningless.⁵⁷

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- Pg. 1.** 1. Hosea 4:6, 2. Eccl 9:12, 3. 1 John 5:20, 4. John 1:12, 5. Romans 8:29, 6. Eph. 4:17-19, 7. 2 Cor. 4:4, 8. Gen. 1:26-27, 9. 1 Cor. 1:9, 10. John 3:20, 11. Isaiah 59:2, 12. Eph. 2:1-3, 13. John 3:16, 14. Eph. 1:4, John 6:44, 65, 15. Eph. 1:7, John 14:6, 16. John 17:21, 17. John 10:10b, 18. Romans 8:28-29, 19. Ps. 39:7, Romans 8:16, 34-39,
- Pg. 2.** 20. Gal. 2:20, 21. Col. 1:16-17, 22. John 4:10-14, 6:35, 23. Heb. 13:8, 24. Eph. 2:3, 25. 2 Cor. 4:16, 18, 5:6, 26. Romans 12:2, 27. 1 John 2:16, 28. Malachi 3:6, Deut. 32:4, 29. Col. 1:16, 17, 30. Romans 8:14, 16, 17, 31. 1 Peter 2:9, Eph. 1:5-7,
- Pg. 3** 32. Gal. 5:16-18, 33. John 11:25-26, 34. James 1:6-8, 1 Cor. 2:5, 35. Col. 2:8-10, 36. 1 Cor. 6:17, 37. Romans 5:5, 6, 8, 1 Cor. 1:30-31, 38. Heb. 11:1, 2 Cor. 4:18, 39. John 17:3, 40. John 4:24, 41. Romans 11:36, 42. 1 John 5:20, 43. Gen. 1:26, 44. John 3:5-7, 10:10, Romans 8:10-11,
- Pg. 4** 45. John 12:48, 46. 2 Cor. 3:18, Eph. 4:23, 47. Matt. 27:50-51, 1 Cor. 15:20-22, Acts 2:23-24, 48. Eph. 1:7, 49. Romans 1:21, John 6:44, 50. Joshua 24:15, 51. Ez. 36:26, Gal. 2:20, 52. Romans 6:3-11, 53. Gal. 3:27, 54. 1 Cor. 2:9-16, 55. John 5:24, 56. 1 John 5:10-12, 57. John 3:3-8.

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