



Becoming Who You Already Are

A SACRED JOURNEY THROUGH
IDENTITY AND CALLING

Dennis Wagner 1

Introduction

Who are you? This question isn't about the surface roles you play or the labels you collect. It's an invitation to peel back every layer—your titles, your achievements, even your failures—and discover the core of your being. True identity springs from deeper roots than circumstance or opinion.

A young entrepreneur once let the failure of her first startup define her worth—until a mentor asked, “Is your value tied to a balance sheet?” That question cracked open her heart to discovering her true identity beyond success metrics.

Who you are not:

- You are not defined by past mistakes or regrets.
- You are not your job title, social status, or outward success.
- You are not the sum of others' expectations or comparisons.
- You are not limited by fears, doubts, or the voices that tell you "you can't."

How we sabotage ourselves:

- Believing lies about our worth and letting them dictate our choices.
- Chasing approval so relentlessly that we forget our own values.
- Comparing our journey to someone else's snapshot of success.
- Allowing shame or perfectionism to silence our voice and stop us from growing.

As we move into the pages ahead, keep this reminder close: knowing who you are first means recognizing who you're not, then shedding every false identity that holds you back.

Now that you've named the false identities that trip you up, let's root ourselves in the truest identity available—who you are in Christ.

Next Step

Choose one false identity you've believed this week and write down the truth you know about yourself instead.

Who You Are in Christ

In the middle of a dark season, David stumbled on 2 Corinthians 5:17 and scribbled “new creation” on every mirror in his home. Each morning he spoke that promise aloud until God’s love became louder than his shame.

Your identity in Christ is not rooted in performance or worldly standards. You are defined by God’s unwavering love and grace. Embracing who you are in Christ transforms how you see yourself and how you live each day.

Allow these scriptures to anchor your identity. When doubts arise, turn to God’s Word to remind yourself of who you truly are in Him. Let His truth shape your thoughts and your life.

- You are a new creation in Christ: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- You are free from condemnation: “There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1).
- You are God’s workmanship, created for good works: “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works” (Ephesians 2:10).
- You are a chosen people and a royal priesthood: “But you are a chosen people... a royal priesthood... a holy nation” (1 Peter 2:9).
- You are alive because of His sacrifice: “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me” (Galatians 2:20).
- You are a child of God: “Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12).

Having discovered your worth in Christ, we can step confidently into your place in the wider world—beyond labels and affiliations.

Next Step

Memorize one of the scriptures in this section and speak it aloud whenever you face doubt about your worth.

Who You Are in the World

After years of arguing politics with family, Maria decided to volunteer at a community garden. Tending peppers with neighbors who voted differently showed her that service—not party lines—reveals our shared humanity.

In the world, your identity is shaped by relationships, culture, and the communities you move through. You are a friend, a neighbor, a citizen, and a contributor to society. These roles offer opportunities to influence others with compassion and integrity.

You are not defined by external labels or affiliations.

- You are not defined by your political party.
- You are not defined by your church denomination.
- You are not defined by any social group or club.

True identity springs from authenticity and connection, not from boxes others try to fit you into. Embrace your uniqueness, honor your heritage, and engage with the world on your own terms—serving, listening, and building bridges wherever you go.

With a clear sense of your global influence, let's focus on how that identity shows up every day in your professional life.

Next Step

Identify an external label (political, denominational, social) you've leaned on, then do one act of service outside that circle this week.

Who You Are at Work

When an engineer named Priya was offered a high-paying role that clashed with her values, she declined. Two months later, she joined a smaller team whose mission aligned with her integrity—and found joy she'd never known.

At work, your identity goes far beyond your job title or paycheck. It's shaped by how you solve problems, collaborate with others, and bring your unique gifts to every task.

Beyond the Job Title

- You are a creative problem solver, spotting solutions where others see roadblocks.
- You are a collaborative teammate, valuing diverse perspectives and lifting others up.
- You are a steward of excellence, caring deeply about the quality and impact of your work.
- You are a lifelong learner, continually honing skills and embracing fresh challenges.

Aligning Your Work with Your Core Values

- Identify the values that drive you—integrity, innovation, compassion—and look for ways they show up in daily tasks.
- Treat each project as an extension of your purpose, whether you're leading a meeting, writing an email, or coaching a colleague.
- Set clear boundaries that protect your well-being and maintain your capacity to serve with energy and focus.

Common Pitfalls That Sabotage Your Work Identity

- Equating self-worth with productivity and burning out in pursuit of “more.”
- Chasing titles or promotions at the expense of authentic connection and joy.
- Allowing fear of failure or perfectionism to paralyze you, instead of fueling growth.
- Comparing your career path to someone else's snapshot of success.

Owning Your Unique Contribution

- Regularly pause to celebrate progress, however small, and remember why you do what you do.
- Seek feedback not just on output but on how you show up—your leadership style, your listening skills, your influence.
- Invest in relationships at work; your network is a tapestry of mutual encouragement and opportunity.

As you deepen your understanding of who you are at work, notice where your strengths and values intersect. Lean into those spaces—they reveal the truest expression of your professional identity.

As you align your work with your values, the final frontier is your calling—how you serve and lead in ministry.

Next Step

At day's end for the next five workdays, journal one way you honored your core value on the job and one boundary you need to reinforce tomorrow.

Who You Are in Ministry

Pastor James burned out trying to fill every pulpit on the circuit. It wasn't until he started hosting backyard prayer circles that he saw true transformation—and rediscovered the simple power of presence.

Ministry flows from a deep sense of calling and a heart committed to service. It's less about program execution and more about stewarding God's love into every life you touch.

Called and Equipped

- You are called by name, chosen before the foundations of the world (Ephesians 1:4).
- You are equipped with spiritual gifts uniquely yours—teaching, mercy, hospitality, leadership, and more.
- You are empowered by the Holy Spirit to step into your calling with confidence and humility.

Servant Leader

- You lead by serving, placing others' needs above your own and modeling Christ's example (Mark 10:45).
- You listen first, speak with grace, and guide with wisdom rather than authority alone.
- You cultivate trust through transparency, admitting your own dependence on God.

Ministry Beyond the Pulpit

- You minister in casual conversations, in the lunchroom, in your neighborhood—every setting is sacred ground.
- You bring prayer, encouragement, and compassion into daily rhythms, not just formal gatherings.
- You build bridges between church and community by identifying genuine needs and offering practical help.

Common Pitfalls That Sabotage Your Ministry Identity

- Equating success with attendance numbers or visible “results” rather than life transformation.
- Neglecting your own soul care and burning out under expectations you weren’t meant to carry alone.
- Falling into perfectionism or performance, forgetting that grace is your foundation.
- Comparing your ministry season to someone else’s high-profile platform.

Cultivating Your Ministry Identity

- Commit to regular spiritual disciplines—prayer, Scripture, solitude—to stay rooted in your calling.
- Seek mentors and peers who will speak truth, pray for you, and hold you accountable.
- Celebrate small acts of faithfulness and remember that God multiplies even the tiniest offering.
- Set healthy boundaries: rest when you’re weary, say no when you’re stretched too thin, and delegate generously.

As you embrace who you are in ministry, remember that every act of service—seen or unseen—reflects your identity as God’s ambassador.

Next Step

Pinpoint one ministry task that drains you, delegate or share it, and carve out a regular slot each week for prayer and rest.

Closing Reflection: You Are Known

You are not your titles, your past, or your performance. You are not the sum of others' opinions or the weight of your own doubts. You are beloved. Chosen. Called.

As you've journeyed through these pages, you've named false identities, reclaimed truth, and remembered who you are—in Christ, in the world, at work, and in ministry. This is not a one-time revelation. It's a sacred practice. A daily returning.

So pause. Breathe. Let grace settle in your bones. Let truth rise in your spirit. Let love shape the way you walk forward.

You are not alone. You are not forgotten. You are not finished.

You are becoming—more fully, more freely, more faithfully—who you were always meant to be.

***Blessings,
Coach Dennis***

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