



BOOK 03 – CHAPTER – 01 – STUDY 02

Identity in Christ and the Danger of Spiritual Amnesia

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Our Identity According to the World vs. Our Identity in Christ

In our culture today, the greatest “sin” is often said to be losing yourself or changing who you are for someone else. The world tells us that identity comes from likes, dislikes, passions, and beliefs. Changing these for another is considered weakness or loss.

But the gospel teaches something very different. True identity is not preserved by clinging to self, but by surrendering to God. We do not erase individuality, but we allow Him to reshape us. Our old ways are crucified, and a new life begins in Him:

“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17) (B4-C09-S01-“Marriage as Covenant, Not Convenience”, B3-C03-S02-“Called and Chosen Set Apart Through Obedience”).

Marriage as a Living Picture of Identity Transformation

Marriage gives us a clear picture of this truth. A wife does not have to give up her God-given passions, but in cleaving to her husband she learns to prioritize unity rather than self. Scripture declares:

“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh” (Genesis 2:24).

This “one flesh” is not erasure, but transformation through love.

A husband is commanded to love his wife as Christ loved the church, giving himself in sacrificial love (**Ephesians 5:25**; B4-C09-S03-“The Wife as Helper in Covenant Order”). A godly wife, in turn, is called to reverence, respect, and submission to her husband not as weakness, but as her crown and strength (**Proverbs 12:4**; B4-C09-S02-“The Husband as Head Under God”).

This picture shows that individuality is not destroyed but reshaped into unity. Just as husband and wife become one, so the believer is united to Christ.

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The Apostles as Witnesses of Transformed Identity

The Gospels are further proof. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John each wrote with unique voices and perspectives. Their individuality remained, but their identity was transformed as they conformed to Christ. They were not erased; they became more of who God intended them to be by being hidden in Him (B3-C02-S06 – “When Grace Is Abused and Sin Rules”).

Consider how their identities changed as their walk grew stronger.

Peter, once impulsive, quick to boast, and even denying Christ in fear, became bold and steadfast. By **Acts 2**, he preached with unshakable confidence, leading three thousand souls to salvation in a single day. His identity was no longer “the unstable fisherman” but the rock God used to help establish the church.

John, known early on as a “son of thunder” (**Mark 3:17**) for his fiery spirit, was later transformed into the apostle of whom Christ loved the most. His writings emphasize fellowship, love, and abiding in God, showing a softened identity anchored in divine truth.

Matthew, once despised as a tax collector and traitor to his own people, left his old identity behind to follow Christ. Instead of recording taxes, he was called to record the Gospel, giving us the detailed account of our Saviour’s life.

Paul, though not one of the twelve during Christ’s ministry, was a persecutor of the church who became the most prolific writer of the New Testament. His identity shifted from enemy of the faith to servant of Christ, showing that God transforms even the hardest heart.

Thomas, remembered at first as “doubting,” was later sent forth as a missionary, carrying the gospel as far as India according to tradition. His identity was reshaped from skepticism to faith-driven courage.

Their stories show us that identity in Christ is not about erasing who we were, but about transforming it into what God purposed from the beginning.

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How Our Identity Is Supposed to Change

When we come to Christ, we are not simply given a new title, we are given a new life. Identity in Christ means transformation. Scripture does not call us to remain as we are but to be changed into His likeness.

A Call to Newness: *“That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness”* (Ephesians 4:22–24).

A Call to Transformation: *“Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God”* (Romans 12:2).

The Danger of Twisting Scripture

Another danger today is false teaching and false Bibles. Small changes in words can change the truth completely.

For example, Ephesians 5:1 in the King James Bible says, *“Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children.”* But many modern versions change “followers” to “imitators.” That may sound harmless, but it changes everything.

Think about a child. One child pretends to be his father by putting on his shoes and coat. He looks like him for a moment, but he is only imitating/pretending. Another child follows and listens to his father, obeys him, and learns from him. That child is truly walking in his father’s footsteps, changing and reshaping himself and becoming like his father.

We are not called to imitate God, as if we were little gods ourselves. We are called to follow Him, to obey, honor, and love Him as our Father.

A Call to Death and Life: *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me”* (Galatians 2:20).

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Our old identity in the flesh must die. Our new identity in Christ must rule.

How We Are to Change

The Bible does not leave change to chance. It gives us clear commands.

Put off the old man ([Colossians 3:8–9](#)). This means casting away lying, anger, wrath, malice, filthy communication, and every sin that defined us before Christ.

Put on the new man ([Colossians 3:10](#)). This means clothing ourselves with mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, and longsuffering.

Walk in the Spirit ([Galatians 5:16](#)). The Spirit leads us away from fleshly works and into the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control.

Endure the refining process ([1 Peter 1:7](#)). Just as gold is tried by fire, so our faith and character are tested and purified.

This change is not optional; it is the mark of true discipleship.

Example: A New King and His Kingdom

When a new king takes the throne, his kingdom always changes. New laws are set, old policies are overturned, and the culture of the nation begins to reflect the heart of the ruler. Citizens either adapt to his reign or resist and rebel.

In the same way, when Christ becomes Lord of our lives, He is not just a Savior to rescue us, He is King to rule us. His commands replace our preferences. His will replaces our will. His standards become our standards.

Where once anger ruled, He commands forgiveness ([Matthew 6:14–15](#)).

Where once pride ruled, He commands humility ([Philippians 2:3–5](#)).

Where once self-ruled, He commands submission to Him ([Luke 9:23](#)).

Just as a kingdom cannot remain the same under a new ruler, our lives cannot remain the same under Christ. To remain unchanged under His reign is to resist His kingship.

“For he hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son” ([Colossians 1:13](#)).

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We have been moved from one kingdom to another, out of darkness into light. Therefore, our identity must change, because our King has changed.

The Danger of Spiritual Amnesia

Even with these promises, many believers suffer from spiritual amnesia, forgetting who they are in Christ. Scripture warns:

“For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:3).

Yet we often forget what God has revealed and what He has already delivered us from.

Peter himself fell into this when fear overcame him, and he denied Christ three times. Yet when he remembered who he was and whom he served, he rose again with boldness, no longer denying the Lord but declaring Him before rulers and crowds. His story reminds us that forgetting leads to failure, but remembering restores faith.

Thomas too struggled with amnesia when he doubted the resurrection, forgetting the promises Christ had already spoken. Yet when he touched the risen Lord, his memory was restored, and his identity renewed in faith.

Over time, sins we once rejected creep back in. The flesh whispers, “It wasn’t that bad,” or, “You can handle it now.” Forgetfulness in marriage looks the same: husbands forget vows of sacrificial love, wives forget vows of respect and faithfulness. Just as marriage vows must be remembered daily, so must our covenant with Christ.

A lack of memory is really a lack of faith, and a lack of faith is disobedience.

Causes of Spiritual Amnesia

Spiritual Causes: Disobedience to God’s commands (**1 Samuel 15:23**), worldly distractions and cares (**Luke 8:14**), hidden, unrepented sin, neglect of Scripture and prayer, and attacks of the enemy, who tries to steal the Word (**Matthew 13:19**).

Example: Martha, though a faithful follower, was distracted by serving and forgot to sit at the Lord’s feet. Her distraction shows how easily good intentions can lead to forgetfulness.

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Physical Causes: Exhaustion and lack of rest (**Matthew 26:41**), poor stewardship of time and constant busyness, isolation from fellowship and accountability (**Hebrews 10:25**), and unhealthy habits that weaken the mind and body.

Example: The disciples in Gethsemane fell asleep in Christ's greatest hour of need because their bodies were weary. Physical weakness opened the door to spiritual weakness.

Self-Examination Checklist

Ask yourself:

- Am I obeying God daily, or excusing “small” sins?
- Are worldly cares stealing my focus from prayer and Scripture?
- Is there hidden sin in my life that I’ve left unchecked?
- Do I feed on the Word daily, or live on spiritual crumbs?
- Am I faithful in prayer, or only call on God in emergencies?
- Am I caring for my body with rest, or letting exhaustion dull my spirit?
- Do I guard my time as belonging to God?
- Am I faithful in fellowship and accountability?
- Are my habits helping me walk in clarity, or pulling me away from God?
- When tempted, do I answer with who I am in Christ, or forget and give in?

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves” (2 Corinthians 13:5).

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Spiritual Amnesia and the Disconnect Between Father and Son

One of the greatest causes of spiritual amnesia in modern Christianity is a false disconnect between God the Father and Christ the Son. Many view the Father as distant, harsh, or legalistic, while seeing Christ as approachable, merciful, and forgiving (B4-C01-S02- Part 2 – “The Disconnect, Part 2 Separating the Father from the Son”).

This distortion is fueled by culture, music, and shallow teaching. Worship that exalts Christ while neglecting or diminishing the Father creates imbalance. Yet Scripture is clear: Christ does nothing apart from the Father:

“I can of mine own self do nothing... because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me” (John 5:30).

When we forget that our salvation is from the Father through Christ, we lose balance. Spiritual amnesia deepens when we exalt one truth while ignoring the whole truth. Christ Himself declared, *“I and my Father are one” (John 10:30).* Forgetting this unity leads to disobedience; while remembering it anchors our identity.

No Balance With Sin or Time

From the letter “How much is God worth”, we learn that many deceive themselves by seeking a “balanced life.” But there is no balance when it comes to sin:

“What communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial?” (2 Corinthians 6:14–15).

Christ Himself declared:

“No man can serve two masters” (Matthew 6:24).

A divided life is not balance; it is bondage.

This applies to time as well. Time is the one thing we can never buy back. Every moment wasted on the world is stolen from God. Even the Sabbath, meant to be a delight, is treated by the flesh as a burden when the heart is divided. Scripture exhorts:

“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:16).

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The Cost of Identity and Discipleship

Marriage and discipleship both require counting the cost. A husband must lay down pride; a wife must lay down control. Similarly, a disciple must lay down the world. Christ compared discipleship to building a tower or going to war, teaching us to consider the cost and endure until the end.

Peter, John, and Paul each counted this cost, leaving nets, leaving family, leaving status, to gain Christ. God's worth cannot be measured. He is above price, deserving all our time, obedience, and love. Likewise, marriage cannot survive on partial commitment, it requires all.

Remembering Our True Identity

Our identity is not defined by culture, feelings, or what others say. We are not who others claim we are, we are who God says we are redeemed, chosen, and called His children (B2-C01-S04 – “The Full Biblical Pattern of Salvation”). John’s transformation shows us this truth: once zealous for calling down fire on others, his identity was reshaped into “the disciple whom Christ loved.”

Spiritual amnesia causes us to forget this, and when we forget, compromise follows. But when we remember, we stand firm. We stop looking back like Lot’s wife ([Luke 17:32](#)), and we press forward toward the high calling of Christ ([Philippians 3:13–14](#)).

Rejection, loneliness, and hardship are not abandonment but preparation. Diamonds are formed under pressure, gold refined by fire, and grapes crushed before the wine flows. In the same way, identity in Christ is forged through trials. Memory of His promises keeps us faithful.

Like Paul, we must press forward, not backward. His past as a persecutor could have defined him, but his identity in Christ erased the condemnation of yesterday and gave him a new mission, to preach the gospel to the nations.

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