

IDENTITY THEFT

Who are you? All of us have opinions about ourselves. They are often shaped by what others call us or think of us. In sociology it is called 'labeling'. If one wants to know the purpose and identity of something, it is best to go to the original source and creator of it. If you own an Apple computer, you will not go to Microsoft to get information. If you own a Toyota car you will not find useful information for it from a Ford manual. There are many intricate systems in computers and cars that require detailed specifications for them to operate efficiently. How much more are human beings made with such intricate interconnected operating systems. Where do we go to find out how humans will function with optimal beneficial outcomes? We go to the manufacturers' handbook and owners' manual.



It is called the Holy Bible and called Holy because it is set apart from all other books as it is given to us from the creator Himself, Almighty God. We will find our true identity and purpose in God's Book and nowhere else. It is there that we discover that mankind is a three part being; spirit, soul and body.

– 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

- spirit / how we relate to the spiritual world and God
- soul / how we relate psychologically to self and others
- body / how we operate in the physical world

The soul, which includes the mind, will and emotions, is the battleground zone. We are to be gatekeepers of the thoughts that come our way. We must screen them carefully, for they can influence our lives for bad, good or at least not the best for us. This is what happened to the first couple Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. They had been living in communion with God in a perfect paradise, but then they listened to a serpent (fiery demonic entity) who made them doubt God's goodness. They ate the forbidden fruit. It was then that God came to Adam and Eve and conducted what I call the first counseling session in history. God asked four questions.

1. Where are you? (God wanted Adam to reveal his situation)
2. Who told you? (God wanted Adam to express who he had been listening to)
3. Have you eaten the forbidden fruit? (God identifies broken commandment)
4. What have you done? (God wants Eve to confess her specific violation of His will)

The law of sowing and reaping is a law built into the spiritual and physical world.

God designed mankind to walk in harmony with His life, love, light, truth, peace and joy.

We are now living in a fallen world of death, fear, darkness, lies, confusion and sadness because of their disobedience in the Eden paradise.

When God created the first couple he made them in his image, male and female, so they could be fruitful, multiply and exercise dominion over creation as they had relationship with Him. They allowed Satan to steal their intimacy with God, their dominion over creation and their image identity.

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

- Reflect His Image – Genesis 1:27
- Reign in life - Genesis 1:28
- Reproduce - Genesis 1:28

RESTORED THROUGH JESUS

- Reflect His Image – Romans 8:29
- Reign as kings – Romans 5:17
- Reproduce – John 15:5-8, Matt. 28:19-20

When we are under God, we can be over creation but when we are apart from God we come under the influence of the world system and creation (eg. addictions to weeds, , plants/drugs, grains/alcohol, stars/astrology, mother earth worship/gaia, sexual perversion, gender confusion etc.) Our lives will no longer be fruitful and joyful but filled with sadness and confusion. This is what happened to Cain after he killed his brother Abel. He became a 'restless wanderer' apart from God's presence - Genesis 4:6-13. **Life is difficult and fruitless apart from God – Deuteronomy 31:17-18.** This is what happened to the nation of Israel. Throughout the Old Testament we see how they were blessed when they honored and obeyed God, but when they **forgot who they were in God**, they followed other gods and reaped the tragic results. Satan caused there to be broken relationship between mankind and God and even between parents and children. That began to change when God sent a man to Israel who fulfilled the prophecy from the last verse in the Old Testament. His name was John the Baptist.

'He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.' - Malachi 4:6 NIV

(today schools are turning students against parents and towards godless ideas)

John was confident of who he was and why he was sent. His identity was questioned as the Jews in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was because he was baptizing people. He proclaimed he was not the Christ but then they asked him if he was Elijah or the prophet and he said no. He then replied with the prophetic words written by Isaiah about 700 years before.

'I am the voice of one calling in the desert, make straight the way for the Lord.'

- John 1:23, Isaiah 40:3

Where did John get his identity from? He got it from the Word of the Lord and not from what others may have thought of him.

At the baptism of Jesus, the Father in heaven spoke this **key affirmation** over Jesus after he humbled himself in obedience.

'This is **my beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased' – Matthew 3:17 NKJV

Why was this important? Immediately after this, Jesus entered the desert and heard these words from the **key adversary** of God and His kingdom.

'If you are the Son of God.....tell these stones to become bread.'

' If you are the Son of God.....throw yourself down'. Matthew 4:3,6

Satan questioned the **identity of Jesus** which was based on what God the Father had already spoken to Jesus. As humans, we must look to God to first get who we are outside of Christ and then who we are IN CHRIST when we fully give ourselves to Him.

OUTSIDE OF CHRIST

- We are **SINNERS** who are **unrighteous** - Romans 3:9-23
- We are rejected and condemned – John 3:18,36

IN CHRIST

- We are **SAINTS** who are declared **righteous** - Romans 1:7; 3:22; 4:24, 2 Corinth. 5:21
- We are accepted and beloved by God - Ephesians 1:6, Romans 8:1, 1 John 3:1

In the Bible there are:

330 places where unsaved people are called sinners. 240 places where saved people are called saints and zero places where saved people are called sinners. - Neil Anderson

Recite the following creed to remind yourself of who you are in Christ.

