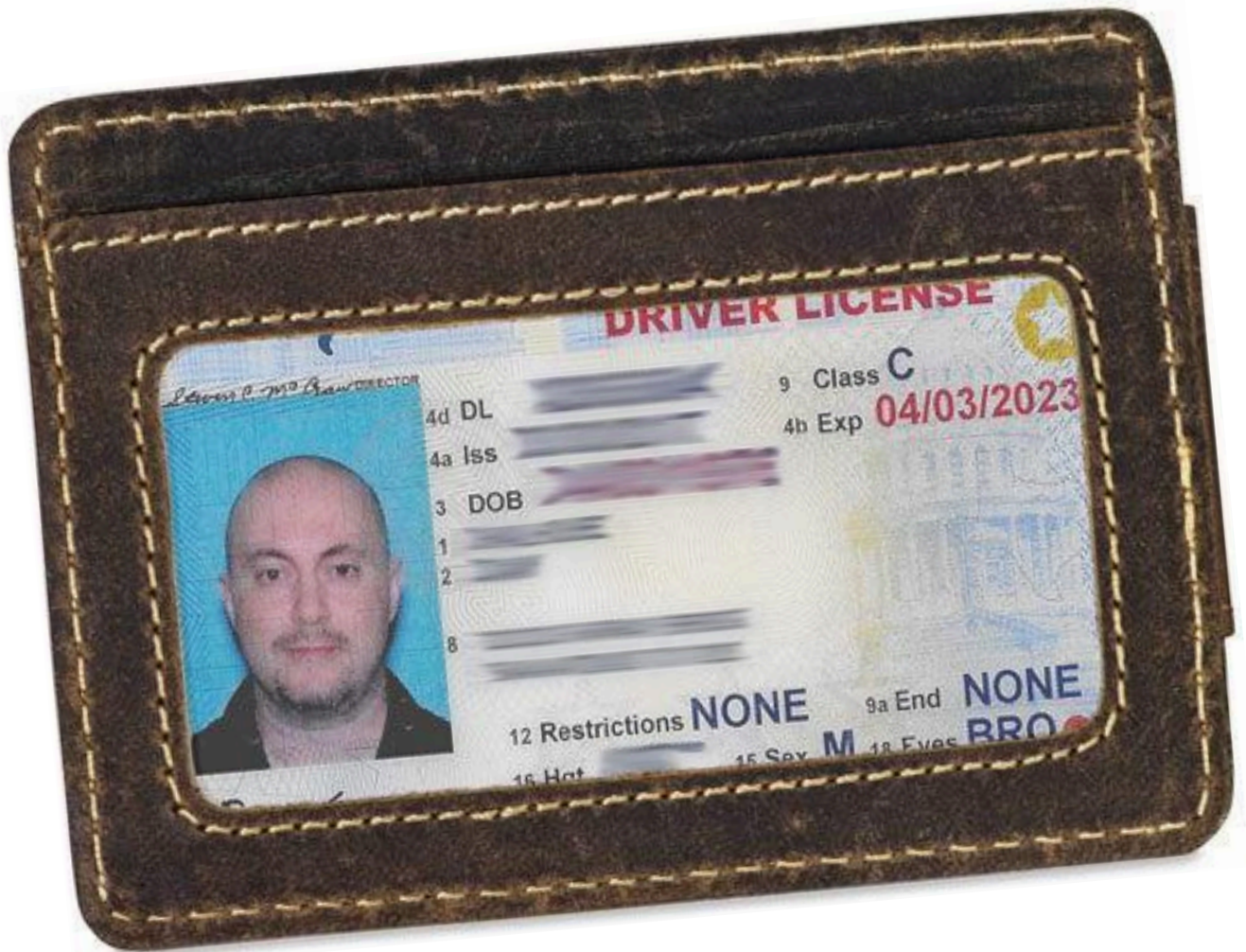


Who God Says You Are:

The Ultimate Identity Upgrade



WRITTEN BY VAUGHN JENNINGS

The Label Jungle

Have you ever felt like a walking bulletin board for other people's labels?

First, you've got a birth certificate with the name your parents chose.

(hopefully after careful consideration and not just after binge-watching their favorite TV show).

Then life starts playing

"Pin the label on the Human."

Some tags are pretty nice, like "awesome friend" or "helpful neighbor."

Others... well, they're about as welcome as a porcupine at a balloon party.

You know the ones—those whispered words that somehow manage to stick to us like gum on a shoe:

- "troublemaker,"
- "not good enough,"
- "failure."

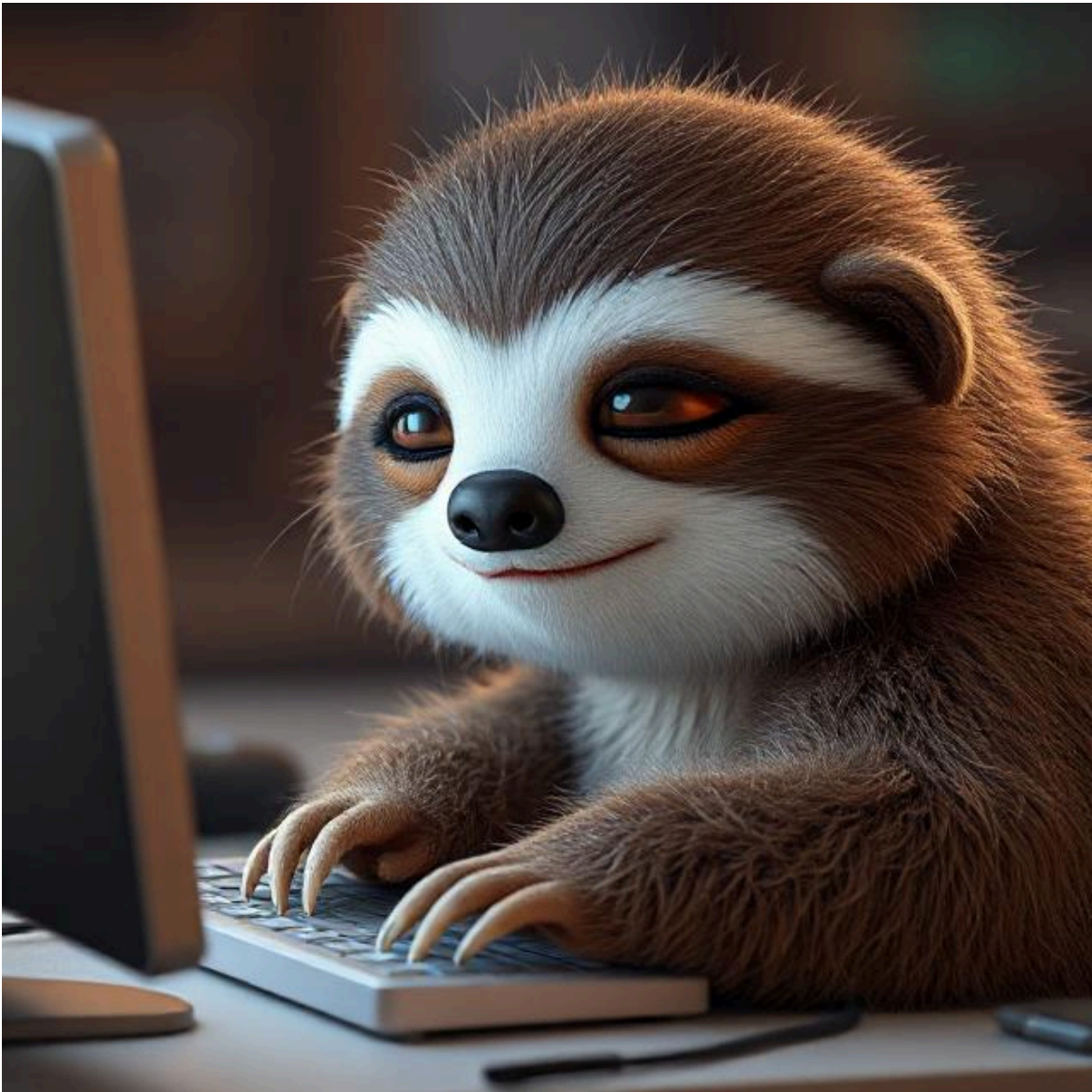
And just like that stubborn gum, we keep stepping in them no matter how carefully we walk.



God's VIP Nametags

But here's something that might make your brain do a double-take: God has an entirely different set of names for you.

And trust me, His list would make your social media bio look like it was written by a sleepy sloth!



FORGIVEN

Not "that person who messed up spectacularly last Tuesday," just completely and totally forgiven.

It's like God has the ultimate Delete-Button for mistakes.



Confession goes in, forgiveness comes out—no complicated user manual required!

As 1 John 1:9 puts it: *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."*

(That's God-speak for "clean slate, no questions asked!")

CHOSEN

Yes, like first-pick-in-the-dodgeball-game chosen, except infinitely better. God didn't just randomly end up with you on His team because all the athletic kids were already taken. He specifically wanted YOU!



Imagine the Creator of the universe pointing directly at you saying, "That one! I pick that one!"

That's what 1 Thessalonians 1:4 is all about:

"For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you."

(No tryouts necessary!)



FRIEND

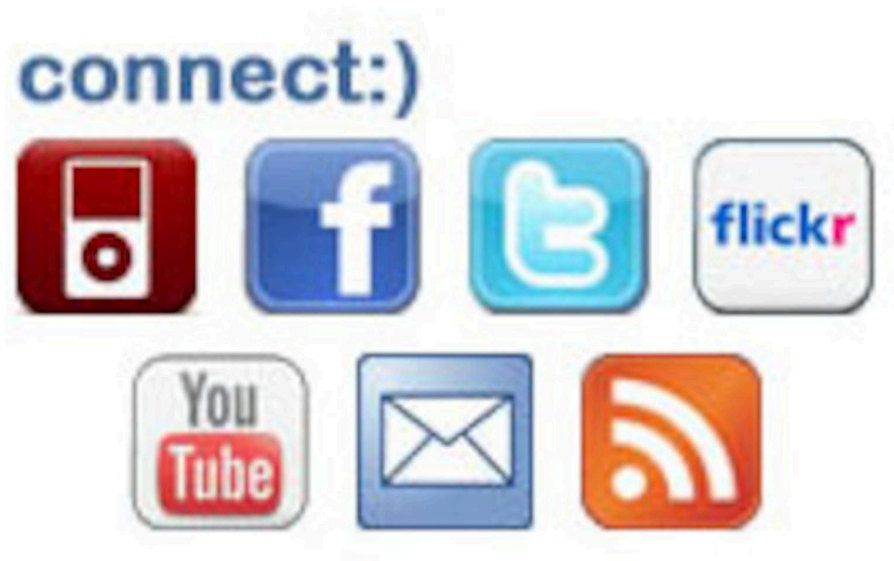
Not just a casual acquaintance or someone God tolerates.

(like that neighbor who always starts lawn work at 6 AM)

John 15:15 says you've been upgraded from "servant" status to "friend" level. It's like getting that VIP access badge to God's inner circle:

"I no longer call you servants... Instead, I have called you friends."

(Feel free to update your heavenly social media status!)



HEALED

Your past wounds don't define you in God's eyes. That embarrassing story you hope nobody ever brings up again? That painful memory that still makes you wince harder than watching someone fall on America's Funniest Home Videos?

God says you're healed from all that, according to 1 Peter 2:24: *"By his wounds you have been healed."*



(No co-pay required!)

ADOPTED

In a world where belonging is everything, Ephesians 1:5 says God deliberately chose to bring you into His family. And apparently, it wasn't just some obligation—it actually gave Him "great pleasure."



"He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will." Talk about family goals!

(And unlike your earthly siblings, God will never blame you for using all the hot water!)

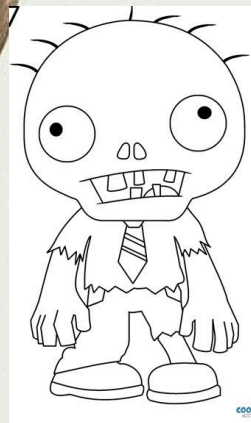
ALIVE

When God looks at you, He sees someone who's "Alive" with fresh purpose.

Ephesians 2:4-5 basically says you've been spiritually resurrected—which is way cooler than any zombie apocalypse scenario.

"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions."

(No brain-eating involved!)



free

Not the fake kind of free that still comes with fine print,
(Think of your "free" trial subscriptions)
but the real deal.

As John 8:36 puts it,

- *"...If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."*
- No subscription required
- No hidden fees
- No "terms and conditions may apply."



(Though your parents may still expect you to do your chores!)

STRONG

Not just gym-selfie strong,
but can-handle-anything strong.



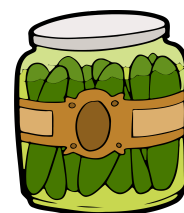
Philippians 4:13 promises strength beyond your natural abilities:

"I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

It's like having supernatural backup when life gets tough.

(Warning:

Does not guarantee ability to open stubborn pickle jars.)



BLAMELESS

This might sound impossible for anyone who's ever had their browser history accidentally revealed



But Colossians 1:22 says that's exactly what you are in God's eyes—

*"...holy in his sight, without blemish
and free from accusation."*



(Though this doesn't mean your family doesn't blame you for the empty milk carton in the fridge!)

LOVED

Not the conditional:

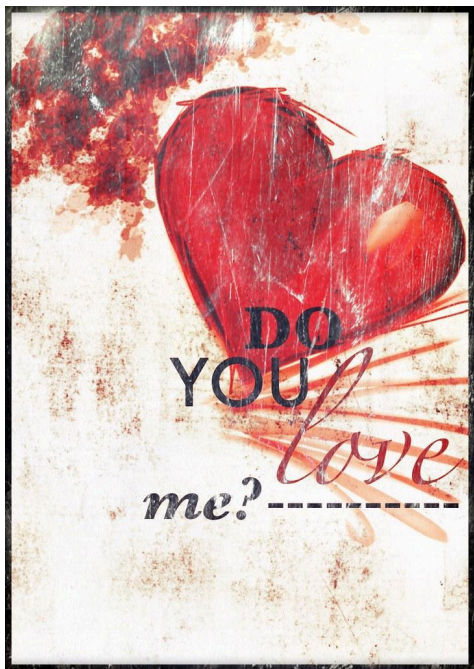
- "I love you if..." or
- "I love you when you..."

kind of love.



God's love, as 1 John 4:10 explains, is the real, no-strings-attached kind:

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."



(No "read receipts" required!)

Your True Profile

The next time someone tries to define you with a less-than-flattering label, remember that God's already given you better ones. Your true identity isn't determined by what's trending on social media or what that one person said about you in the school hallway.

When you choose to trust in Jesus, these names

- **Forgiven,**
- **Chosen,**
- **Friend,**
- **Healed,**
- **Adopted,**
- **Alive, Free,**
- **Strong,**
- **Blameless, and**
- **Loved**

Become who you really are.

And honestly, that's a way better profile than anything you could come up with yourself!

Discussion Questions for Families:

1. Which of God's names for you is hardest to believe? Why?
2. What negative labels have you been carrying that you need to exchange for God's truth?
3. How might your day change if you truly believed what God says about you?



Homeschool Companion - Building faith foundations with truth and a touch of humor!