

True Identity

Cyber criminals successfully hack their way into an online database, gaining access to all your sensitive personal and financial information. You feel angry, exposed, violated. Rightly so, too! Your identity has just been stolen, putting you at risk for devastating consequences.

But it is just the opposite with God. Although he knows all your secrets (Heb. 4:13) – every thought, word, and deed, your every hidden desire and deepest dread – you need not fear. God does not come to steal your identity or use what he knows against you. On the contrary, God's purpose is to see your rightful identity as his child restored and fulfilled.

...you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. (Romans 8:15-16)

God knew you before you were born (Ps. 139:13-16). He made each one of us a unique creation, with distinct gifts and specific work to do (Rom. 12:4-8). Regardless of our varied roles in the body of Christ, however, our chief purpose – the one we all have in common – is to glorify God and enjoy him forever. This is his perfect will for you.

Although God's will is perfect, we are not. Yet through God's complete knowledge of us, and the power of the Holy Spirit, he is able to transform us, if we will but cooperate.

There is transforming power in fixing our thoughts on God. Better understanding his holiness and impeccable character will always cause his children to respect and love him more. Meditating on his glory and on his saving work through Jesus on our behalf will cause our thoughts, desires, prayers, and behavior to progressively fall more in line with his will – *His good, pleasing, and perfect will* (Rom. 12:1-2). Through this process (sanctification), the best of an individual's true identity is ultimately expressed. We become who we were always meant to be, who God designed us to be.

Do you carry painful secrets? Are there bad deeds you hope will stay buried in the past – things you carefully conceal from others and have neglected to confess even to God? He knows them anyway. Lay those burdens down at the foot of the cross and receive his forgiveness.

How freeing to realize there's no need to attempt hiding things from God! How incredible that the Lord of the Universe knows everything about us and loves us anyway! He loves you unconditionally as his own dear child. That is your true identity.

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