



# IDENTITY

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# SONSHIP

## IDENTITY - PART 1

Knowing who we are in Christ and who we are called to be, is one of the most profound revelations we can receive in Him, which births and forms His life in us.

There are a number of characteristics which describe our identity in Him. Here are some of these characteristics which we will look at through this resource. Sons, Priests, Nation, Bride, Soldiers, Saints, Disciples, Bondservants, Possession.

Before we can launch head first into discovering each characteristic of who we are, we must start with God's first placed position when it comes to our identity and this is in knowing who He is. Knowing who God is through the power of revelation, is the key to knowing who we are in Him. Every characteristic of our identity is discovered in Christ Himself.

This is why Jesus Christ asks His disciples who the people say He is, and it is the same reason why He asks them, who they say He is.

***Matthew 16:13-15 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"***

**Why is this such a pertinent question when it comes to knowing who we are in Christ? Discuss this as a group.**

Answering this question correctly doesn't necessarily mean one is in the eternal life that sits behind the answer. Its the life that sits behind the answer which only comes via revelation, which we must receive, if we are to know Him as Messiah the way He intends.

**What is the difference between knowing Him as Messiah through the scriptures and knowing Him as Messiah through the Spirit? Discuss this as a group.**

The disciples said, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote - Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph". In other words we have found the Messiah and yet in the same breath, they said, "Who then is this and what kind of a man is this?" Why did Jesus ask His very own disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" What did Jesus know about His disciples which they didn't even know about themselves?

***John 14:9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"***

The key to knowing who we are in Christ, is all found in knowing who God is, and the key to knowing who the Father or Christ is, is all discovered through the revelation of the Spirit.

***Matthew 16:16-17 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."***

This passage of truth is consistent with a multitude of other passages of truth, when it comes to having a true knowledge of the Father or Jesus.



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**Matthew 11:27** *All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.*

**John 3:27** *John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven.*

**1 Corinthians 2:9-10** *but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him." For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.*

The Scriptures are explicitly clear and precise. Man CAN NOT know God without the Spirit REVEALING God to man. This means man can not know who he is or his identity in God, without knowing God, because before the foundations of the earth, He chose us in His Son, the Christ, the Messiah. Only when we know and continue to know the Christ, will we know who we are.

A false knowledge of the Messiah which comes through man's wisdom, that is the understanding of the Scriptures through human intelligence, will leave you void of your identity in Him. All you will be left with is a theoretical understanding of He is and who you are, which you CAN NOT LIVE OUT. This knowledge is futile and is in vain.

We will say we are a son of God, but the demonstration of our lives will reflect an orphan reality. We will be selfish, self centred, prioritising our own lives, looking to guard, protect and fight to maintain what we have, insulating ourselves, as opposed to being completely self-less and being open, giving all we are away for the influence and benefit of others.

**Galatians 2:20** *I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15** *For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.*

The key to knowing our identity, is having a true knowledge of the Vine through the Holy Spirit revealing Him within us.

## QUESTIONS

1. How do you think Philip would have felt from hearing the words, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip?"
2. How many of us can relate to these words and why?
3. Why is knowing Jesus through the Spirit so transformative to knowing who we are?
4. What are you being made aware of through this resource?

**ACTION POINT:** What action point do we need to take away from tonight?