

# **IDENTITY**

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## **SONSHIP**

### **IDENTITY - SONSHIP PART 1 (SECOND LANGUAGE)**

Knowing who we are in Christ (identity) is one of the most important things that God shows us (revelation).

There are many characteristics that describe our identity in Christ. Here are some of the characteristics that we will look at: Sons, Priests, Nation, Bride, Soldiers, Saints, Disciples, Bondservants and Possession.

Before we look at these characteristics, we must start with looking at who God is. The key to knowing who we are in God, is knowing who God is. God shows us who He is through the power of revelation. All of the characteristics of our identity are discovered in Christ.

This is why Jesus asked his disciples who the people said Jesus was. It is also why Jesus asked the disciples who they said Jesus was.

*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?" (NASB)*  
Or in other words;

*Matthew 16:13-15 Jesus went into the part of the country near Caesarea Philippi. While he was there, he asked his disciples, 'When people talk about the Son of Man, who do they say that He is?' They replied, 'Some people say that you are John the Baptist. Other people say that you are Elijah. And some other people say that you are Jeremiah, or another prophet of God.' 'But what do you think?' Jesus asked them. 'Who do you say that I am?'*

Why is this such an appropriate question to knowing who we are in Christ? **Discuss this as a group.**

Even if we answer the question correctly, it does not always mean that we really know Christ and that we are walking in eternal life. Eternal life comes through revelation. We must receive this revelation. We can only know Christ as Messiah (our saviour) if we let God show us who He is.

What is the difference between knowing Christ as Messiah through reading the Bible and knowing Christ as Messiah through the Spirit? **Discuss this as a group.**

The disciples said 'We have found the man that Moses wrote about in the book of God's Law. The prophets also wrote about Him. He is Jesus, who is Joseph's son, from Nazareth.' (John 1:45) The disciples said that they had found the Messiah but then they asked 'Who is this and what kind of man is He?' Why did Jesus ask His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" What did Jesus know about His disciples that they did not 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'?*

Or in other words;

*John 14:9 Jesus answered, 'I have been with all of you for a long time. But still you do not seem to know me, Philip! Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. So why do you say, "Show the Father to us"?*

The key to knowing who we are in Christ is knowing who God is. We know God through the revelation of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will show us who God is.



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**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.”

Or in other words;

**Matthew 16:16-17** Simon Peter answered him. ‘You are the Messiah. You are the Son of God, the God who lives for ever.’ Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of Jonah, God has blessed you! No person on earth taught you that. God, my Father in heaven, has shown you this.’

There are many other Bible verses that also tell us how to truly know God.

**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.

Or in other words;

**Matthew 11:27** My Father has given me authority over all things. Only the Father really knows me, his Son. Only I really know my Father, because I am his Son. I also choose to show God to some people. Then they also know Him.

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

Or in other words;

**John 3:27** John replied, ‘A man can receive only what God gives to him, nothing else.’

**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.

Or in other words;

**1 Corinthians 2: 9-10** This is written in the Bible: ‘Things that no one has seen and no one has heard before. Things that no one has ever thought could happen. These are the things that God has prepared for His people who love him.’ For God has sent His Spirit to show these secrets to us. God’s Spirit looks carefully into everything. The Spirit knows everything about God.

The Bible is very clear. We CANNOT know God without the Spirit to show us who He is. We cannot know who we are in God (our identity in God) unless we know God. He chose us before the earth was made. We can only know who we are when we know and continue to know Christ.

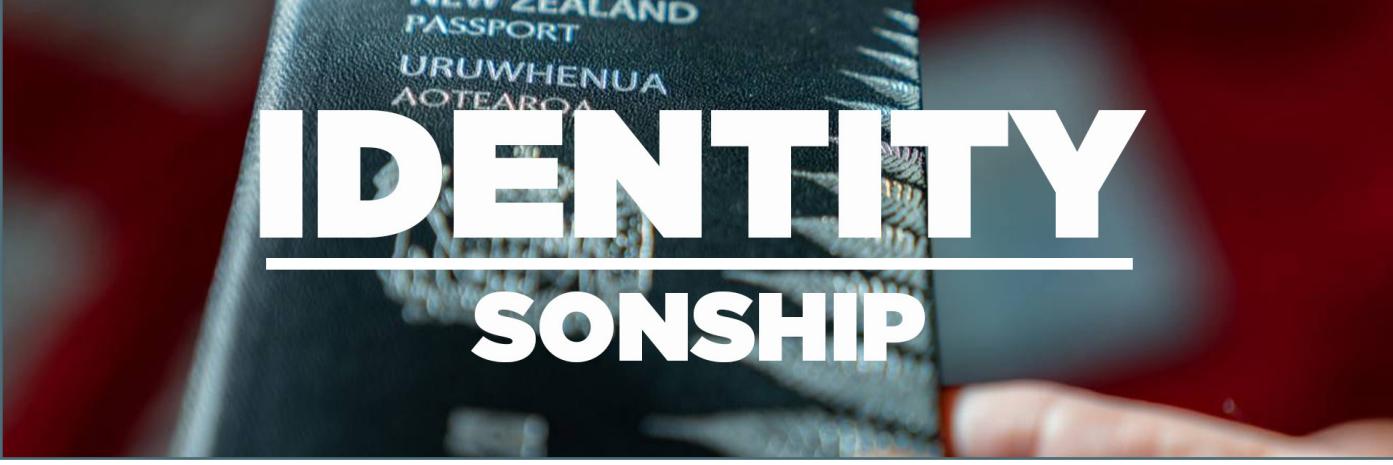
If you try to know God by using your human brain to understand the Bible, you will not find your identity in Him. You will only have book knowledge of who God is and who you are. You will not be able to live the way God wants you to. This book knowledge is powerless and useless.

We will say we are a son of God but we will live like an orphan. We will be selfish and self-centred. We will only want the best for ourselves. We will fight to keep what we have instead of being selfless and able to give ourselves away to help 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.

Or in other words;

**Galatians 2:20** Christ died on the cross for me. It is like I died there with Him. So I do not live my own life any



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*more. Instead, Christ lives in me. The life that I live now in my body, I live because I have faith (trust) in the Son of God. He has loved me so much that He died 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.*

Or in other words;

**2 Corinthians 5: 14-15** *Whatever we do, we do it because Christ loves us. We know that one man, Christ, died on behalf of all people. So we also know that all people died with Him. He died on behalf of all people. So, while we live, we no longer live to please ourselves. Instead, we live to please Christ, who died and rose again on our behalf.*

The key to knowing our identity is through the Holy Spirit showing us a true knowledge of Christ.

## QUESTIONS

1. How do you think Philip felt when he heard Jesus say 'I have been with all of you for a long time. But still you do not seem to know me, Philip'?
2. Do these words feel like they could apply to you? Discuss why you feel this way.
3. Why is knowing Jesus through the Spirit so important to knowing who we are?
4. What have you learned from this resource?

**ACTION POINT:** What is one action point (thing that we could do) from what we have read and discussed tonight?