*Lesson #8 Our True Identity in Christ*

*Identity/ A) the fact of being who or what a person or thing is. B) the distinguishing character or personality of an individual. As used in a sentence: “I’ve kept my identity hidden for 5 years now.”*

*Q. Who are we?*

*A. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*An internet search of ‘created in the image and likeness of God’ brings up over 100 Bible verses. God has much to say about who we are ‘in’ Him.*

**Ephesians 4:24** and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

**1 Corinthians 6:17**But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit*.* KJV

**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

*Q. What is your sense of self? Who do you see yourself as? Are we supposed to even have a sense of self apart from Christ?*

*A. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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**1 Corinthians 4:3** But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself.

**Philippians 3:3b**… who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

*We are to put our confidence in Christ not in ourselves….* For you died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **Colossians 3:3** *We are beloved in the sight of God, ‘in’ Christ, and we’re never not ‘in’ Him. We are inseparable. He places an extreme value on His people, His family on earth. It is so liberating to take our eyes off ourselves and see ourselves only intwined in Him. This is the sense of self I believe He desires for us to continually grasp. One with Him. Inseparable eternally connected. Safe, loved, valued, chosen… this is our God given identity.*

*Dictionary definition: The fact of being who or what a person or thing is….*

*We’re not becoming…. we are!*

*Identity theft/ the fraudulent acquisition and use of a person’s private identifying information, for another’s gain. As used in a sentence: “Dr. Finch punctures the myth that identity theft is all about money.”*

*Living from our true identity takes an awareness and a conscious consistent choosing to stand firm here. Who we truly are can be overshadowed by the lies of the enemy and our own souls. We receive the benefits of our true identity when we choose to agree with who God says we are, daily generating thoughts that only agree with His truth, and then speaking this over ourselves.*

*Q. Do you ever say to yourself, “What is wrong with me?”*

*A. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**Romans 8:34** Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

**John 10:10** The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

**1 Peter 5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

*Q. What do major life events or circumstances have to do with our identity? Does what is happening in our lives define who we are?*

*A. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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**Colossians 3:10 …** and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him…

**Romans 8:35**Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

**John 10:10** The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

**Romans 8:37**… we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

*Q. How do we stand firm in our true identity?*

*A. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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**Hebrews 12:2a** …looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, *(right here think of faith as something you’re in…. not something you’re growing in).*

**Isaiah 26:3** You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose* mind *is* stayed *on You,* because he trusts in You. *Continually focusing on Jesus, no matter what it looks like around us.*

**1 John 3:30** For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. *Praise God!*

*Q. How can we further experience our true identity?*

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**2 Corinthians 3:15-18** But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. **16**Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. **17**Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. **18**But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

**James 1:25** But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it,* and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

**Romans 12:2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

*We plant the Word in our hearts. We water it through prayer and worship. God gives the increase as we rest in Him… in His Word. Don’t try to make it happen because that is agreeing with identity theft. We cannot make ourselves ‘be’ who we already are. Let the Word have its way. Let Him unfold in you… His Self… Who… is in you.*

Genesis 1:27… created in His image… Psalm 139:14… fearfully wonderfully made…

John 1:12… sons of God… 15:15… I have called you friends…

Romans 8:17 … joint heirs with Christ….8:37… more than conquerors…

1 Corinthians 3:16… temple of God… 6:19 … temple of the Holy Spirit

2 Corinthians 5:20 … ambassadors for Christ… 5:21… the righteousness of God…

Galatians 3:26… children of God

Ephesians 2:5 …. made alive with Christ…4:24 …. created in righteousness and true holiness…

Ephesians 5:30 … of His flesh and of His bone

1 Peter 2:9… chosen generation… royal priesthood… holy nation… God’s special possession…