

Find Our Identity In God

I wear a lot of hats these days. I'm a wife, a mother, a daughter, a sister, a doula, a homeschool teacher, a gardener, a baker, a wannabe homesteader. These jobs and things I find enjoyment in shape how I use my time, how I spend my money, who I surround myself with, and how I feel about myself. When I'm gardening, I wear a baseball hat that declares "Mama Bear," and when I drink my morning coffee it's from a mug with the moniker "Crazy Plant Lady."

I'm sure you've noticed- our culture is obsessed with identity. We buy t-shirts and hats, bumper stickers and flags proclaiming our identity to the world. (#DogMom) It wasn't that long ago that all anyone could talk about was pronouns and gender identity, and not too long before that personality tests were all the rage. (I'm a 2, shocker!) We use hashtags on our social media posts and stickers on our water bottles that let everyone know who we are before we even have a conversation.

And while it's great and fun to enjoy the good things that God has placed in our lives, should we, as Christians, be finding our identity in those things? The question we need to be asking ourselves is not *Who am I?* but *Who does God say that I am?*

God's Word tells me exactly who I am:

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works..." (Ephesians 2:10)

"The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs-heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ..." (Romans 8:16-17)

"See what kind of love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God; for that is what we are." (1 John 3:1)

There is no better identity than to be a child of Almighty God.

Buy the t-shirt, put the cute sticker on your car's back window, there's nothing wrong with that; but don't let those things define you. As believers it should be our joy that someone would identify us with Christ; that when they think of us, they cannot separate that thought from one of Christ as our Lord and Savior.

So be the Crazy Plant Lady, but be the Crazy Plant Lady who delights in God's creation and tells others about how it reflects His beauty and creativity. Be the Mama Bear who passionately and purposefully points her children to Jesus in all situations. Be the woman in your circles who points others to Christ and to the goodness of God. Let "His praise be continually on your lips." (Psalm 34:1) May the Women of Redemption find their identity in the God who made them, who loves them, who saved them.

Brittany Belcher