

**Who Am I?**  
**“Discover Who God Says I Am”**  
(Part 1)

**Intro:** Have you ever had someone steal your identity? What a pain! Years ago we had someone steal our credit card number 3 Xs within a couple months. Identity Theft – Every 4.9 seconds – 6.4 million people every year are impacted by identity theft. Fastest growing crime in the US today.

Identity theft is nothing new. Identity theft has been going on since the beginning of creation. In fact, we gave up our true identity in Gen. 3 in the Garden of Eden (Explain)

- Satan deceived us in giving up our real identities.

Our identities have been stolen and it is time to get them back! We have allowed the world to define who we are / we've allowed our failures to define who we are / we've allowed others to tell us who we are / we've allowed Satan to lie to us. When we believe things about ourselves that are not true...our identities are being stolen. Why is this so important? Because you live what you believe.

- If your identity is founded in your performance / job / money / success / looks / possessions / popularity / failures / you will always struggle with your self-worth. WHY? Because you can never be good enough – rich enough – successful enough – beautiful enough – popular enough. And if what I am is never enough, I will always struggle with self-worth.
- If this is how you feel today, your identity has been stolen
- It is time for us to get our identity back! HOW? Believe Who God Says you are!

## **1. God Says I Am Made In His Image**

*Gen. 1:27 “So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” (NLT)*

- God made us in His image to be image bearers. We reflect the image of our Creator. (Have a mirror) This image is not a physical thing, it is an internal thing. Like what?
  - We have the capacity to relate / connect / experience God on a spiritual level. We are spiritual beings just like God is. (Eternity is in our hearts) Just look at our world...mankind is spiritual. We long to connect with the spiritual.
  - We share some of God's attributes. (We are relational / spiritual / moral / reasoning / creative / emotional / free will / beings – just like God is.
  - Mankind is unlike anything else God created. You are the capstone of God's creative work. You are the most significant thing God ever made. The Universe with its countless galaxies / stars / and planets are less significant than you being made in the image of God Himself. (Not even the angels are image bearers)

- This is why Satan is at war with humanity. This is why you see Satan showing up in the Garden of Eden attacking mankind. He doesn't attack the animals or the creation. He goes after the image bearers.
- WHY? Because if he can distort the image and steal our identity, people do not see God. If he can get you to believe you are less than who you really are, you will live that way.
- Believing you are created in the image of the All powerful / All knowing / Ever present, God of love is foundational for getting your identity back. (Say together...)

## 2. God Says I Am His Marvelous Workmanship

*Ps. 139:13-14 "You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it." (NLT)*

- You're more than just a "piece of work." You are His marvelous workmanship. God did not create a mistake when He made you. He designed you...He knit you together...He made you wonderfully complex...you are a result of His workmanship.
- You are not a mistake. You are not an accident. You are not defective. You are not less marvelous or less wonderful than someone else. You are His marvelous workmanship!
- Our true identity is stolen because we get our self-worth from our culture rather than from God. Our culture dictates to us what worth really is...or what marvelous workmanship looks like. If you don't fit the mold, we feel worthless.
  - Now, AI is contributing to the distortion of our self-worth. We now have AI powered beauty filters. **(READ article)**
- I want you to repeat after me; "I am God's marvelous workmanship." I want you to say to the person next to you; "You are God's marvelous workmanship." This is not a pride thing. It is a reality check!
- This is what God's word says about you. This is what God says about you. It is sin to refuse to believe it! Why? Because you are calling God a liar!

## 3. God Says I Am His Dearly Loved Child

*Ps. 139:17 "How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered!" (NLT)*

- Is this what you believe about how God thinks about you? For most people, it's just the opposite. You don't believe God's thoughts about you are precious and innumerable...Most people feel God is disappointed / frustrated / even irritated with them.
- When God thinks of you, it puts a smile on His face. His good thoughts about you are infinite!

*Rom. 8:38-39 "And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky*

*above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (NLT)*

- God’s love for you is more secure than anything we have ever experienced. God’s love for you is bigger than you / your mistakes / your failures / your inconsistencies / your emotions / (Sometimes my emotions go up and down...)
- When we doubt God’s love for us our true identities get stolen. We begin to act like insecure people trying to earn the love of God / trying to make our lives acceptable to Him / instead of living in the power of His unconditional love every day.
- It is knowing that His love for me is constant and unchanging that gives me hope every time I fail. It is His love that empowers me to try again. It’s His love that makes me run to Him rather than run away. (His love for you changes your life more than your fear of punishment - explain)
- You are not some second class citizen in the Kingdom of God. You are not treated like some stepchild in the Kingdom of God. You are His dearly loved child.

#### **4. God Says I Am Worth Dying For**

*John 3:16 “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” (NLT)*

*Rom. 5:8 “But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” (NLT)*

- God loved you so much that He sent His Son to die for you before you ever loved Him back. You and I have never done anything to make ourselves savable or lovable. We didn’t earn it / deserve it / God came after humanity even though humanity had turned their back on God.
- The work of Jesus on the cross should have a profound impact on how we view ourselves. Jesus values you and I so much that He was willing to experience a horrific death to restore a relationship that was lost.
- He didn’t die for angels / animals / or the cosmos. He died for you. You are valued above everything in God’s created world. You are worth the Creator of the entire Universe laying aside His Divine privileges, becoming human, and dying for you.
- We need to let this soak in to our hearts and minds. Overfamiliarity can cause us to be calloused about this mind boggling truth. If you’re struggling with your self-worth look at the cross.

#### **5. God Says I Am Created For Victory**

*Rom. 8:37 “No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.” (NLT)*

*I Cor. 15:57 “But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (NLT)*

- Do you realize that you are created to win? You and I are created for victory. This means that our basic identity is that of a winner not a loser. Some of you may feel like losers, but this is NOT who you are.
- This doesn't mean we win every game / get every promotion / always fill your tag / or we succeed at everything we try / get an A on every test / and life is easy.
- Being created for victory is realizing that we are engaged in this cosmic battle between Satan and his fallen angels and God, His angels and the image bearers...us! In this battle, we are created for victory.
- We can have victory over sin...over Satan...over his influence in this fallen world...we can be victorious over culture...over the lies of this world...over our habits...over our wounds...over our disappointments...over everything that hinders us from living in the way God intends us to live.
- Being created for victory is realizing that we are not helpless victims in the darkness of this life but through Jesus, we can experience being overcomers on a daily basis.
- Why is this so important? Because if you never believe you are created for victorious living, you will never act like it. Your identity is rooted in winning not losing!
- For some of you, your self-image is rooted in losing. Why do I say this? How often do you say and think.....
  - I can't / I'll fail / I'm not good enough – smart enough – talented enough –
  - How often have you said or thought; It doesn't matter / I can't make a difference / or I can't overcome this issue / there's nothing I can do! / I'm hopeless.
- Our true identities have been stolen when we develop the “loser limp.” (explain)  
There is a victorious overcomer in each of you...because Jesus is in you!

*Phil 4:13 “For I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength.” (NLT)*

## **6. God Says I Am Created For Purpose**

*Eph. 2:10 “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” (NLT)*

- Not only are we His marvelous workmanship created to reflect His marvelous image, He also gives us purpose to fulfill in this life. There are literally good things He planned for us to do long ago.
- Purpose is so important when it comes to self-worth. Everyone wants to feel that they are doing something significant...have a significant contribution...making some kind of difference in this life. Purpose just makes you feel good!
  - Guatemala
  - Backpack Buddies / Food Pantry /
- People are longing for purpose today.
- So many people struggle believing they have anything to offer...struggle believing they can do anything significant...struggle believing there is any grand purpose for them to experience. This is not what the Bible says. Literal purpose!

- Once again if you do not believe this is true about you, this will never be explored. Life is more than just getting out of bed every day going to work earning a paycheck so you can do the same thing tomorrow. There is purpose to discover and walk in. Stop living a robotic existence and embrace the reason you were created. Don't let this part of your identity get stolen.

How do I go about discovering my purpose?

- You begin by discovering your unique design. Design determines function.
- You then explore areas of serving that fulfills your unique design.
- You grow and develop in the area of your design – develop your potential.
- The result = fulfillment

Stop believing the lie that you have nothing to offer and no purpose to discover. That is having your identity stolen.

## **7. God Says I Am His Ambassador**

*II Cor. 5:20 "So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" (NLT)*

- We represent Jesus' interests here on earth. We are His Ambassadors to a broken, hurting world that is struggling to find some hope. We are here to persuade people to reconnect with the God who created them and rediscover true identity.
- Every follower of Christ is an ambassador not just a few. It's not just Pastors or church leaders, but everyone who follows Jesus represents Him in every context we find ourselves in.
- We are His ambassadors at work / at school / in our community / in our neighborhoods / serving on civic clubs / coaching our kids sports teams / Our lives are literally on display for the world to see.
- If we never embrace this as part of our identity, it will never be at the forefront of our consciousness. We all must ask ourselves what people see as they observe my life? Am I representing Jesus well?
- Think about what a significant role we have been entrusted with? We are the physical manifestation of Jesus in this life for others to see. We are His hands and feet. People are to see the reality of Jesus in us! Remember...image bearers!
- God has no other plan. There is no plan B. We are it! Don't let your identity be stolen. You have been called to be an ambassador. We are created to represent. (This is why we are so committed to reach out to our community.)

So, what do you believe about yourself? Where are you getting your self-worth?

### **On the screen**

Today I choose to believe who God says I am. I am not who the world says I am; I am not who I say I am; I am not who my friends say I am; I am not who my feelings say I am; I am not who my circumstances say I am. I am who God says I am.

## **Say Together**

God says...

- I am made in His image
- I am His marvelous workmanship
- I am His dearly loved child
- I am worth dying for
- I am created for victory
- I am created for purpose
- I am His ambassador to this world

Today I choose to believe who God says I am.

## **Prayer**