

# Clarify Your Identity

## *I Belong to Jesus*

World Outreach Church  
Sermon Discussion Guide  
Sunday Sermon: **March 03, 2024**



There is a great deal of conversation today about “how we identify.” We treat our identity like it’s fluid—as if our choices dictate the biology of our lives or the outcomes. There is a bit of arrogance in that response. We need to realize there is a God, and He’s not us. To flourish in the days ahead, the Church needs clarity to understand *our* identity. Knowing *who we are in Christ* and the assignment *He* gave us changes everything. One simple fact that brings clarity to our identity is knowing we belong to Jesus. *Christ-followers belong to Jesus!*

### I. A MATTER OF BELONGING

Romans 1:6 *And you also are among those who are called **to belong to Jesus Christ.***

Galatians 5:24 ***Those who belong to Christ Jesus** have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.*

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 <sup>19</sup> *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? **You are not your own;** <sup>20</sup> you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.*

1. **As Christ-followers, we are called to “put to death” our ungodly behaviors and embrace a new way of life. Give an example of when you pushed aside your will (crucifying your flesh) so you could yield more fully to the authority of Jesus. What was the result?**

### II. OUR OBJECTIVE — SEE CLEARLY IN “THE MIRROR”

James 1:22–25 <sup>22</sup> *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. <sup>23</sup> Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup> But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.*

Hebrews 4:12–13 <sup>12</sup> *For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. <sup>13</sup> Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NIV®)

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. **Hebrews 4:13 says, “Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight.” Share a time when you felt your inner nature (the person God sees) did not match how you presented yourself to others. What steps did you take to find alignment between the two?**

### PROCLAMATION

Now may the God of Peace, Himself, sanctify us completely. May our whole person—spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

1 Corinthians 15:45–49 <sup>45</sup> *So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being (soul)”;* the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> *The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.*

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3. **God intends to sanctify your spirit, soul, and body, bringing each aspect of your life more fully into agreement with Him. Why do all three parts need to be subject to God's leading in your life? How do the spirit, soul, and body work together?**

### III. A LIFE UPGRADE

2 Peter 1:3-4 <sup>3</sup> *His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.* <sup>4</sup> *Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

Joshua 24:15 *But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."*

4. **In what ways has your identity in Jesus changed the trajectory of your life?**

### IV. THE SPECIFICS

- A. I am a child of God.

Galatians 3:26-29 <sup>26</sup> *You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,* <sup>27</sup> *for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.* <sup>28</sup> *There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.* <sup>29</sup> *If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

- B. I am Jesus' friend.

John 15:15 *I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.*

- C. I am a participant in Abraham's blessing.

Galatians 3:14 *He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.*

Galatians 3:29 *If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

- D. I am righteous.

2 Corinthians 5:21 *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

- E. I am a citizen of Heaven.

Philippians 3:20 (NASB<sup>®</sup>) *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.*

5. **Describe your closest human friendship. What characteristics make it strong? How does your friendship with Jesus compare and/or contrast?**

### PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your provision for my life. You have made it possible for me to escape the corruption of this world system and to partake in Your eternal Kingdom. I choose to give Jesus first place in my life, to serve Him as Lord. Holy Spirit, give me a spirit of wisdom and understanding that I may know Him better. In Jesus' name, amen.