

FOUNDATIONAL IDENTITY

as of 10.18.2021

If you don't know who you are you are going to be insecure. And insecure people aren't going to do things that could cause them to experience rejection. No one wakes up and says, "I want to be rejected today." It's not something any of us wants. But when you start rolling up on people and challenging them to turn from being God of their own lives to turn and serve the real God you are going to experience push back.

That's why you have to really know who you are. You have to be living for an audience of One. Your mom isn't going to be on the throne on the day of the Lord. Neither is your coach, your pastor, or your spouse. Lost people aren't going to be on the throne. Only God. God almighty. That's why He is calling us to get our identity from Him alone and what He says about us.

If you are getting any of your identity outside of God that part of you is built on shifting sand.

If your getting your identity from religion then when you don't perform religiously you are going to feel inadequate and condemned. If your getting your identity from people then when they aren't happy with you, you are going to be depressed. If your getting your identity from sports and your team isn't winning you aren't going to be frustrated.

Until you know who you are you won't ever experience fullness of life, because you can't be who you were made to be, **until you know who you are.**

And you can't know who you are until you know who made you. Check this out.

Then God said, "Let us make human being in our image, to be like us."

GENESIS 1.26.

We were made in the image of God and we discover who we are when we study who He is. That's why we need to search the Scriptures and ask God to give us revelation. It's in finding Him that we find ourselves because we were made in His image to bring Him glory.

And it's in Jesus that we see the Father on display. Jesus said, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." **JOHN 14.9**

HOW IT ALL WENT WRONG. A LIE ABOUT WHO GOD IS AND WHO WE ARE.

Read **GENESIS 3.1-7.** Unpack.

The enemy attacked their foundational identity with these lies. God isn't for you. He is withholding from you. He is trying to keep you from being like Him. You aren't like God and to be like God you need to reach for identity outside of God.

That's when darkness flooded into their hearts and into the world. And now we have 8 billion people trying to find out who they are and looking for that identity in every counterfeit source of life we can imagine.

Religion.

Sex.

Politics.

Fame.

Money.

Career.

Sports.

The list goes on and on. It never ends. That's why Jesus had to come. We needed to be shown who God is and who we are in light of who He is.

And what we'll find is that God isn't holding out on us. God is for us. He love us. In fact, He loves us so radically then when we chose to rebel against Him and cast off His leadership in the garden and in every generation since the garden. Instead of completely destroying us, He pursued us. He literally tore out His heart and nailed it to a cross to show us what great lengths He would go to call us back to Himself.

This is the same God that is pursuing love relationship with atheists, and with satanists, and with radical muslims, and religious Jews, with blacks and with whites and if you really needed proof that He is a God of mercy and grace, He is even pursuing eternal relationship with attorneys.

WHO IS JESUS?

To understand this crazy love we need to look more closely at Jesus.

It was prophesied that Jesus was the Son of God in **LUKE 1.26-45**.
verse 32, "He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High."

"and the baby to be born will be holy, and He will be called the Son of God."

So the identity of Jesus was established before He even came into the world and started forming in His mother's womb.

Elizabeth declares a blessing over Mary in verse 45. "You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what He said." in other words, you believe that God is going to do what He says He is going to do and you are who God says you are. You are the mother of the Savior of the World and the Son of God.

It's by believing that we are who God says we are that we will come into our destiny.

The next time we see Jesus walking in His identity and destiny is in Luke 2.41-52. "but why did you need to search?" he asked. "Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?" In other words, don't you have a revelation of who I am and who My Father is?

Jesus knew who He was. It's his parents that needed the revelation. So Jesus grows in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all the people (verse 52) then He begins His public ministry in **MATTHEW 3.13-17**.

What is happening here? When the darkness of the fall is pushed back and the heaven's are open and we can hear the Father clearly, this is what He is speaking over Jesus, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings Me great joy."

The Father is going public with His approval of Jesus and speaking forth His identity. "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings Me great joy."

Then immediately in Matthew 4 the Holy Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness to be confronted by darkness. Let's read **MATTHEW 4.1-11**.

I want you to see this. The Father just spoke over Jesus in Matthew 3. Now Satan says, "if you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread."

But Jesus said, "No! the Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

In other words, I don't get my identity from doing miracles and I don't get my identity from ministry. I get my identity from what God says about me and my Father just told me who I was."

Satan tries to attack His identity again. Read verse 6.

and Jesus responds, "the Scriptures also say, You must not test the Lord your God." I am not going to test the character of My Father. I already know who He is and that He is trustworthy.

I want you to see the pattern from the garden again. The enemy is trying to attack our identity and the identity of God. our foundations.

MAKING IDENTITY PERSONAL.

I want to step back from a theological conversation and make this personal. (**share testimony of my marriage**)

REVELATION 5. Give context and read verse 9-10. “a Kingdom of priests.” We were never meant to remain under the Moses model of the Old Testament. That’s not what Jesus died for. Jesus tore the veil in the Holy of Holies so that we could come into the very presence of God and commune with Him ourselves.

Priests have several functions. **One is worship.** They minister to God and speak the truth about God to God in worship.

Another is prayer. Priests intercede on behalf of others in alignment with God’s heart.

And another is proclamation of the Word (prophecy) and identity. My job as a priest to my family is to listen to what God says about my wife (and children) and speak it over them to build them up. That’s the purpose of prophecy in **1 CORINTHIANS 14.3.** it’s to strengthen, build up and comfort.

I believe this is the fulfillment of what was in God’s heart when He gave Adam the authority of “naming” which is another way of giving him authority to establish identity in **GENESIS 2.19-23.**

Adam said, “you are a zebra,” and it was a zebra. Adam said, “you will be called a woman.” And that’s who she was.

That’s why the Scriptures say, “life and death is in the power of the tongue,” because what we speak over each other matters. It establishes identity.

In fact, most of you have had identity spoken over you your entire lives. Unfortunately, most of it hasn’t aligned with the Word or the heart of God.

[40 days foot washing mandate]

The original temple was built with a foundation [see **1 KINGS 5.17**]. Foundations matter. [share vision of building and revelation of cracked foundations]

Let’s look at **JOHN 13.1-17.** Read and share in detail.

Jesus knew who He was. “Jesus knew that the Father had given Him authority over everything and that He had come from God and would return to God. So He got up from the table, took off His robe, wrapped a towel around His waist, and poured water into a basin. Then He began to wash the disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel He had around Him.” verse 3-5.

“You don’t understand now what I am doing, but someday you will.” verse 7. In the Last Days I will reveal to my church what the sacrament of foot washing is really about.

“a person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet.” why the feet?

First off, foot washing is a ministry of humility. When we are washing someone’s feet or having our feet washed our hearts are humbled and our spirits are open to receiving foundational identity spoken into us.

Secondly, the feet represent the foundations of our frame. They literally bear the weight of our bodies which the Scriptures tell us are the temple of the Holy Spirit. I believe that they are a metaphor for our foundational identity.

Jesus was saying, you are born again. Your spirits have been regenerated. Your minds have been renewed by the washing of the water of my Word. But you still have lies in your foundation about who you are that need to be washed away.

Then to confirm this understanding the Lord brought me back to **GENESIS 3.15**. the Scriptures say that the serpent will strike the heel of mankind. The enemy will attack our foundational identity and lie to us about who we are. But here is the good news of that same passage. When we get a revelation of who we are, we will crush the serpents head and the source of those lies will speak no more into our lives.

Here is why I think knowing who God says we are matters.

1. When you know who you are and whose you are, you aren’t taken out by false accusation;
2. When you know who you are and whose you are, you can share the gospel without fear of rejection because you are not getting identity from what anyone but God thinks about you;
3. When you know who you are and whose you are, you can receive correction and not be offended at God;
4. When you know who you are and whose you are, you can humble yourself and serve and honor others;
5. When you know who you are and whose you are, it opens your heart to receive and give away the love of God without hindrance;
6. When you know who you are and whose you are, you will walk in persevering faith;
7. When you know who you are and whose you are, you can be a conduit of God’s glory without being spiritually destroyed.
8. When you know who you are and whose you are, you can speak into the foundational identity of others (you can’t give away what you don’t have).

[prayer for revelation of our identity and the washing away of lies in our foundations]