

## 8-What Is Your Identity?

We live in a world that sees our identity as our role---father, son or brother. Sometimes our identity is in our work---carpenter, lawyer or laborer. But our true identity is in the spiritual realm. If you have accepted Jesus as your Savior then you have an eternal identity. Yes, you will forever be the adopted son of the Creator of the Universe. You will forever be the brother of your Savior. Forever, your heart will be indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

You may think this is a bold claim. It is not a claim at all. Let's see what scripture tells us:

**CREATOR- Genesis 1:26-27** "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

**SAVIOR-Luke 2:11**"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."**John 3:16**"For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

**HELPER-John 14:16** "And I will ask the Father, and He will send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you."

Why is it important that you focus on your eternal identity? Because it is unchanging! It is uplifting! It is a gift you could never earn for yourself! It is how you are seen by your Lord! All my other identities are temporary. Jobs come and go. Relationships come and go. Only our adopted status is permanent. How do we know that the Lord adopted each believer? Again, we turn to scripture for the truth---**Ephesians 1:4-5** "For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will—".

What happens when you understand your true identity is your eternal status of adopted son of the Creator of the Universe? Your perspective changes! You see life differently. You now have an eternal perspective. This shift of perspective impacts your thinking. It impacts how you see and treat

everyone. For me it meant sharing the mercy I receive, with those most in need of mercy that are close to me. It meant extending mercy to my wife, children, grandchildren, parents, siblings, coworkers and enemies. Yes, that's right; extending mercy to those who persecute me. As I made this shift I experienced more joy and peace in my life.

Once I understood my role as the adopted son I also understood that a second role had been bestowed upon me. I am an Ambassador for Christ. Every adopted son and daughter is empowered to share the gift they have received with the people in their sphere of influence. The peace and joy that we experience through our adopted identity can be freely shared with anyone. This is a free gift so why don't we proclaim it from the mountaintops? I challenge you to embrace your adopted identity and share it with all who will listen!

### Personal Reflection:

Have I embraced my adopted identity? Do I truly believe that I am the adopted son of the Creator of the Universe? Do I regularly thank Jesus, my Brother, for His sacrifice on my behalf? Do I allow the Holy Spirit to speak to me, and do I listen and follow His leading?

### Group Discussion:

How can we encourage each other to be bold Ambassadors for Christ?

How can we share with the group the blessing that we are receiving daily from our adopted Father?