FIRM IDENTITY IN CHRIST

BISHOP RC BLAKES, JR.

For a believer, self-identity is not something you discover by looking deep within yourself; it is a permanent declaration received directly from your Creator. True Christian identity is the unshakeable conviction that you are entirely who God says you are, regardless of your past mistakes, your current performance, or the shifting opinions of the culture around you. It means your value is anchored in the finished work of the cross rather than the fluctuating conditions of your daily life. When your identity is locked in Christ, you no longer have to hustle for your worth or negotiate your boundaries to feel loved.

Consider the story of a young professional who grew up with a solid foundation in faith but lacked a deeply rooted personal identity. He entered the corporate world with high morals and a genuine love for God. However, he desperately wanted a seat at the table with the cultural elite. The shift did not happen overnight through a massive moral failure. It happened in tiny, unseen increments of compromise. He started laughing at jokes that mocked his values. He stayed silent during conversations where he should have spoken up. He began curating his lifestyle and his social media to look ambitious rather than faithful. Within a few short years, his identity was no longer rooted in his relationship with God; it was anchored to his paycheck, his title, and the applause of his peers. The world never had to fight him to conform him. It simply offered him temporary validation, and because he did not know who he truly was, he traded his spiritual birthright for cultural acceptance.

When a person lacks a firm identity in Christ, their life becomes exhausting. They constantly live as an imposter, terrified that someone will eventually pull back the curtain and discover they do not measure up. They devolve into people-pleasers, bending to the expectations and moods of whoever is in the room. They become spiritual chameleons, constantly changing their colors to blend into their current environment. They never stand out, they

never stand firm, and they live trapped in a cycle of anxiety because their sense of self is built on the sinking sand of human opinion.

The Root Causes of a Weak Identity
Understanding why we struggle is the first step toward building a stronger foundation. There are three primary reasons people walk through life with a fractured or weak sense of self, which we can look at as the ABCs of identity loss.

A. Abandonment and Unhealed Wounds

When the people who were supposed to protect, affirm, and love you end up abandoning or hurting you, it leaves a massive void. People who carry unhealed inner wounds often spend their entire adult lives trying to earn the love they were denied in their developmental years. They attach their identity to unhealthy relationships, hoping that another broken person can validate their existence.

B. Broken Cultural Beliefs

We live in a society that loudly dictates what makes a person valuable. The culture teaches that your worth is tied directly to your physical appearance, your bank account, your relationship status, or your level of influence. When a believer buys into these broken beliefs, they step out of the kingdom of God and try to play by the rules of a world that is inherently designed to leave them feeling inadequate.

C. Constant Comparison

The modern world has created an environment where we are constantly exposed to the highlight reels of everyone else. When you lack a firm foundation, you will inevitably measure your behind-the-scenes struggles against the curated success of others. Comparison breeds bitterness, stunts your spiritual growth, and blinds you to the specific calling and potential God has placed inside of you.

1. RECOGNIZE THAT IDENTITY IS RECEIVED AND NOT ACHIEVED

The world constantly tells you that you must build your brand, make a name for yourself, and achieve your way into significance. The kingdom of God operates on the exact opposite principle. You do not work to achieve your identity; you rest to receive it. Before you ever accomplished a single goal, God looked at you and declared you entirely valuable. Your true value was settled on the cross, and nothing you do can add to it or subtract from it. When you understand this, it completely cures the anxiety of performance.

Ephesians 2:10 NIV
For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Notice the sequence in this scripture. You are first declared to be His handiwork, and only after that identity is established are you called to do good works. The works do not make you His handiwork; they are the natural byproduct of knowing who you already are. When you flip this order, you end up striving for love instead of serving from a place of love.

QUOTE: "God made us: invented us as a man invents an engine. A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on." - C.S. Lewis

2. RENOUNCE THE COUNTERFEIT LABELS PLACED ON YOU BY OTHERS

You cannot embrace the truth of who God says you are until you evict the lies that others have spoken over you. Many believers are walking around wearing labels given to them by toxic parents, bitter ex-partners, or a cynical society. Labels like "unwanted," "not smart enough," "too emotional," or "damaged goods" will act as a ceiling on your personal potential until you

actively break agreement with them. Developing a firm identity requires a ruthless rejection of any narrative that contradicts the Word of God.

Romans 12:2 NIV
Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Renewing your mind is not a passive activity where you just sit back and hope your thoughts change. It is an aggressive, daily practice of auditing your thoughts. When a thought enters your mind that produces shame, fear, or a desire to people-please, you must evaluate its origin. If it does not align with the nature of God, you must reject it immediately and replace it with His promises.

QUOTE: "To be right with God has often meant to be in trouble with men." - A.W. Tozer

3. RELY ON THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR INTERNAL CO-REGULATION

In psychology, co-regulation is the process where a calm, grounded person helps soothe the nervous system of an anxious person. As believers, our ultimate partner for emotional regulation is the Holy Spirit. When the environment around you is chaotic, or when your own thoughts are spiraling into anxiety, you do not have to look to outside sources for comfort. You can turn inward to the Holy Spirit, who dwells within you, to anchor your emotions and remind you of your standing as a child of God.

Romans 8:16 NKJV
The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

This is the ultimate cure for imposter syndrome. You do not need the

applause of a crowd or the approval of a supervisor when the Spirit of the Living God is actively bearing witness to your spirit that you belong to Him. Cultivating a deeply personal relationship with the Holy Spirit allows you to walk into any room with self-assurance. You are no longer scanning the room to see if people accept you, because you arrived already fully accepted.

4. REBUILD YOUR LIFE ON THE UNCHANGING NATURE OF GOD

Your identity will only ever be as stable as the foundation it is built upon. If you build your identity on your career, what happens when the market crashes? If you build it on your physical appearance, what happens when age takes its toll? If you build it on motherhood, what happens when the children grow up and leave the house? You must anchor your self-worth to something that cannot be altered, stolen, or diminished. The holiness and unchanging nature of God is the only safe place to drop your anchor.

1 Peter 2:9 NIV
But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

You are chosen. You are royal. You are holy. You are a special possession. These are not just inspirational words meant to make you feel good on a difficult Tuesday. These are legally binding spiritual truths purchased by the blood of Jesus. When you finally allow these principles to move from your head to your heart, your relationships will become healthier, your decisions will become clearer, and your life will reflect the authentic power of a person who truly knows who they are.