



relate · renew · release



status update



What are you doing?|

#struggles

#struggle2break

- How can we “B REAL” in a selfie driven world?
- A **selfie** is a self-portrait photograph, typically taken with a digital camera or camera phone held in the hand or supported by a selfie stick. Selfies are often shared on social networking services such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. They are usually flattering and made to appear casual.

- Eleven months ago, in a one-month period, on different forms of social media, there were thirty-five million # with the word *selfie* in it somewhere.
- Last month, there were a hundred and seventy million in one month with the word *#Selfie* somewhere in it.
- Over-55's taking more than those aged 18-24.

- A survey taken by Samsung in Britain found that 17% of men and 10% of women take selfies.
- Today, we're uploading 1.8 billion images to Facebook, Instagram, Flickr, Snapchat, and WhatsApp every day. In a week that is the rough equivalent of one photo for every person on the planet — including billions of people in the developing world who have no access to technology.
- That is 880 billion images a year.

- Now we are a selfie-obsessed culture.
- The more filtered our lives become, the more we show others the “me” we want them to see, the more difficult it is to be authentic.
- All this leads to #Struggles 2 B REAL.

Knowing who you are, will affect how you are,
And how you act.

The foundation of our #Identity is, who Jesus
says we are.

- **Acts 3** One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon.² Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!”⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.
- ⁶ Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.”⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong

- Their identity in Christ determined their actions.
Peter said, “what I have I will give you.”
- It was in them to discharge God’s plan and purpose.
- There are many prominent men in the Bible who struggled with identity, who filtered their lives.

- Matthew 16:¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked.
“Who do you say I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered,
“You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”
¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.
- “Who do you say that I am?”
- The first step to securing your identity is to articulate who Jesus is to you.

- Only after you know who He is to you, will you begin to know who you are.

2. Moses: Exodus 3 ¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

- ¹² And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

- ¹³ Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’”
- Notice again the necessity to articulate first who He is to you.

- In Jesus Christ we who are born of God have the unspeakable privilege of knowing Yahweh as our Father — I AM WHO I AM — the God.
- Who exists.
- Whose personality and power is owing solely to himself.
- Who never changes.
- From whom all power and energy in the universe flows.
- And to whom all creation should conform its life.

- Only after you secure (anchor) WHO YOU ARE, will you clarify what your purpose is... WHAT YOU ARE TO DO.
- So with this Divine Design, your function (purpose) is simply a DISCHARGE of what is in you.

- Number 1: Who is Jesus to you?
- Number 2: There are 3 separate parts of the Foundation of each person's IDENTITY.

1. Uniqueness

2. Belonging

3. Worth/Value

- Uniqueness:
- Each of us need to feel that we are unique, special, significant.
- Uniqueness is RELATIVE – If you are alone you can not be Unique. The very word requires by definition that there is more than one.
- The world says you gain your uniqueness through DIFFERENCES.
- The key to differences is comparison.

- So we have the “er” – “biggER, fastER, strongER...richER.”
- In God’s kingdom, uniqueness comes through receiving God’s purpose and plan for your life.

2. Belonging:

- Each of us has a tremendous need to belong.
- We all desire a sense of connectedness.

- The world says: “you gain your belonging through Aileness (being like another.. thus acceptance)
 - Race
 - Social/ economic status
 - Special knowledge – doctors, lawyers, pastors, etc
 - Religion
 - Nationality
 - #
 - Likes

- In the Kingdom of God it is not so. God has woven into the fabric of divine relationships, two incredible levels of belonging.
 1. Husband – wife – family. God created Adam in a perfect environment, perfect fellowship, but said, “It is not good for man to be alone.”
- So God designs this incredible unit and called it MARRIAGE. Within this unit the relationship bears fruit of their joint identities. Children that look like both of them. They look into the faces of two people who look like them and thus provide a great sense of belonging

- The second unit designed to provide a sense of belonging is “the Body of Christ.” Your local church.
- Ephesians 5:³⁰ for we are members of his body.
³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”³² This is a profound mystery —but I am talking about Christ and the church.
- This acceptance is not done by what you have done for the church, but it is determined by what He has done for you.

3. Value/ Worth

- Each of us has a need to feel we are of Value.
- While significant is relative (comes from relationship), worth does not come from another; it is intrinsic.
- Worth is an internal sense of value.
- The world says you get your worth from WHAT YOU DO... And thus, your purpose.

- In the Kingdom of God worth and value are not connected to your purpose, but rather connected to our critical need for approval.
- Approval from whom? How do we achieve this approval?
- In the world we seek approval from those that have succeeded in a field where we have desires or passions.
- In the Kingdom, worth is connected with Approval from God the Father.

- Built into each of us is the need for our Father's approval.
- “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.” I greatly approve of Him.
- Jesus' ministry started after He received the approval of the Father.

This is not a conditional approval based on successful performance, but rather this is an expression of love originated out from the heart of the Father.

How do you come into such a relationship with the Father, such that you can experience this fantastic unconditional approval from the Father?

Remove the Veil