

**SLIDE 1.** Introduction

- Focus on God.

**SLIDE 2.** How the World Views Us / How we view ourselves. False Identity.

- If I asked you to describe yourself, what would you say? Job? Experience? Education? Family? Citizenship? Culture?
- The world imposes an identity on you. It is the accumulation of what you have viewed, listened, and read. It also includes what people have said and done to you. Even your enemies. Your family, friends, influencers, actors, musicians, sports personalities, politicians, world leaders. Movies, shows, videos, books, magazines, podcasts.
- Our family, friends, and enemies will result in a false identity.

**SLIDE 3.** How God views us. True Identity.

- But God views us completely different than how the world views us.
- God picks David as the next king of Israel. 1 Samuel 16:1; 1 Samuel 16:6-13. The world would have picked the first born, older, taller, and stronger. David was the youngest. He was not present when Samuel was reviewing Jesse's sons. But God saw something different in David. A warrior, prophet, poet, king.
- 1 Corinthians 1:26-28.
- So our identity in Christ is different than the world's identity of us.
- How Christ views us is who we truly are, not what the world says about us.
- The World wants to live in you. Jesus wants to abide in us. John 15:1-4.
- God loves us and has good thoughts of us.
- God's good thoughts for us. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. Romans 8:38-39.
- Isaiah 55:8-9; Psalms 40:5; Jeremiah 29:11; Matthew 10:29-31; John 3:16; Psalms 139:16-18
- He looks at us with love and sees our identity in Christ. We should live in the true identity.
- God's view of us gives us a true identity of ourselves.
- Yes, we have sinned and we have a propensity to sin, but that is not our identity in Christ. He sees what we can be. It does not matter what you have done ... or what was done to you. God can forgive you. He can heal and restore you ... to the person He wants you to be. Your true self. Your bad life choices are not the sum total of who you are. Your true identity is in Christ, not this world.
- God made/formed you. You are just as God intended. Jeremiah 1:5; Psalms 139:13-16; Isaiah 49:1; Isaiah 44:24; Ephesians 1:4.
- Deep philosophical questions can only be answered by God. Why was I born? This is the identity question. What is my purpose in life? These questions can only be answered by God. He has a special purpose, plan, and identity for you.

**SLIDE 4.** We are not to conform to this world, but be transformed.

- Romans 12:2.
- Put away your old person and become a new person in Christ. Ephesians 4:22-24; Ephesians 2:5; Romans 6:6-8; Colossians 3:9-11.
- You cannot have fellowship with God and fellowship with the world. Galatians 5:16-18; 1 John 1:6-7; 1 Timothy 4:7

**SLIDE 5.** Examples in Bible.

- Jacob to Israel. Genesis 32:27-28; Gen 32:22-31; Gen 35:9-12; Isaiah 43:1. Jacob; h3290; heel-catcher; supplanter; schemer (Gen 27:36). Israel; h3478; he will rule as God; of his

posternity. Jacob struggled with God, but was blessed. He lost the battle but won the victory! He yielded to God, but prevailed because God blessed him. Jacob struggled, but will prevail.

- Abram to Abraham. Genesis 17:1-6. Abram; h0087; high/exalted father. Abraham; h0085; (probably meaning to be populous); father of a multitude.
- Sarai to Sarah. Genesis 17:15-17. 15. Sarai; h8297; princess. Sarah; h8283; noblewoman.
- Ben-Omi to Benjamin. Genesis 35:18. Ben-Omi; h1126; son of my sorrow. Benjamin; h1144; son of (the) right hand.
- Hoshea to Joshua. Numbers 13:16. 16
- Gideon. Angel of the Lord comes to him and gives him a name. Judges 6:32.
- Solomon to Jeddiah. 2 Samuel 12:24-25. 24. Jeddiah means loved by the Lord.
- Simon to Peter (Cephas). Simon received the name Peter (rock) when he met Jesus Christ. John 1:40-42; Mark 3:16-17. Matthew 10:2; Luke 6:14.
- Joseph to Barnabas. Acts 4:36-37. 36 Barnabas means “son of encouragement.”
- Saul to Paul. Acts 13:9.
- John to Mark. Acts 15:37.
- James (son of Zebedee) and John = Boanerges (Sons of Thunder). Mark 3:16-17; Luke 9:54-55;
- When he first met Jesus, John was one of the “Boanerges.” But after walking with Jesus for a lifetime, John the “Son of Thunder” earned a new nickname: the “Apostle of Love.” John calls himself “The disciple who Jesus loved.” John 13:23; John 19:26; John 21:20.

**SLIDE 6. Your new Identity**

- Before we met God, we were walking in a false identity.
- Finding our true identity on our own will not work because we tend to go back to what we are familiar. Proverbs 26:11; 2 Peter 2:22
- God has revealed peoples true identity/name to others, He can show you your identity too.
- Pray to God and walk with Jesus (experience Jesus) and your true identity in Christ will come to you. Your purpose will be revealed.
- You can hear from God. God will speak to you. Then you will know who you are – your true identity. Then you will have purpose in your life. You will know what to do.
- Identity in Christ.
  - What comes with this new identity?
  - A purpose and plan. Answer to those deep philosophical questions
  - Peace, faith, hope, assurance.
  - Potentially a new name.
  - Names meant something about the person or their purpose in life.
  - Moses. h4872; drawing out (of the water); rescued. He drew out the Israeli people from Egypt.