


DISTINCTION

Moving From External Labels to Divine Revelation



The world can not define a believer. The cross has already placed us in the Son, and we are accepted in the beloved. Our acceptance is intertwined with who Jesus is before the Father.

A distinction is a separation, marking, or setting apart of something (or someone) for God's purposes. A holy distinction is when God draws a line that identifies what belongs to Him versus what is common or profane. Holiness itself means "set apart" — distinct from the ordinary, separated from impurity, and dedicated to God.



“Who do men say that I am?”

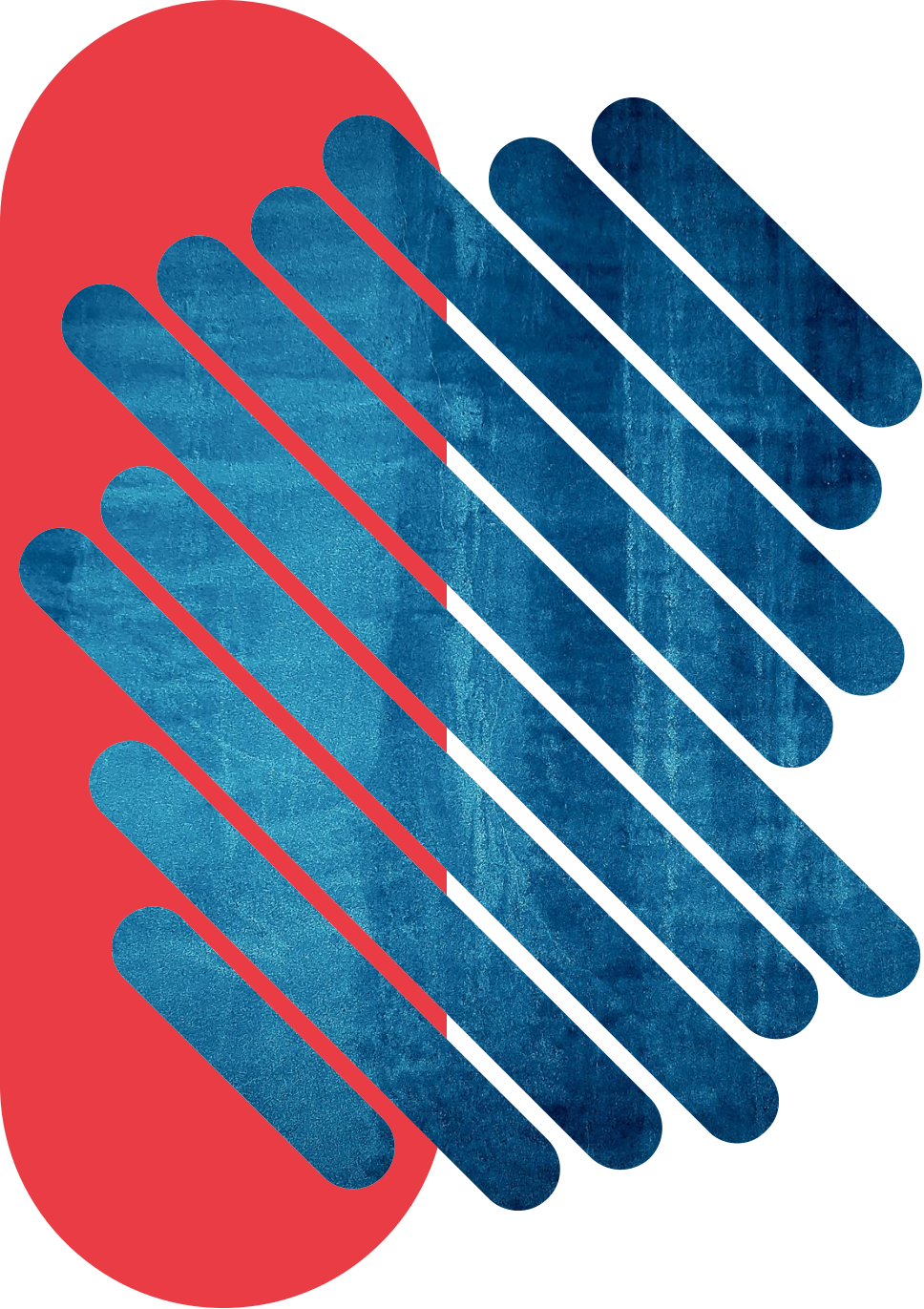
This question that Jesus raises represents the ***voices of culture and opinion. This is a season where our identity formation has to come from the heart and the finger of God.***

Some said He was John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or another prophet. In other words, the people were trying to define Him by familiar categories.

This parallels how our own identity often gets filtered through others' perceptions — family labels, societal expectations, or generational assumptions.

Spiritual identity is your core sense of self in relationship to God. It is who you truly are when all roles, achievements, and earthly markers are stripped away. Unlike social identity (how others see you) or personal identity (how you see yourself), spiritual identity is rooted in divine truth — who God says you are.



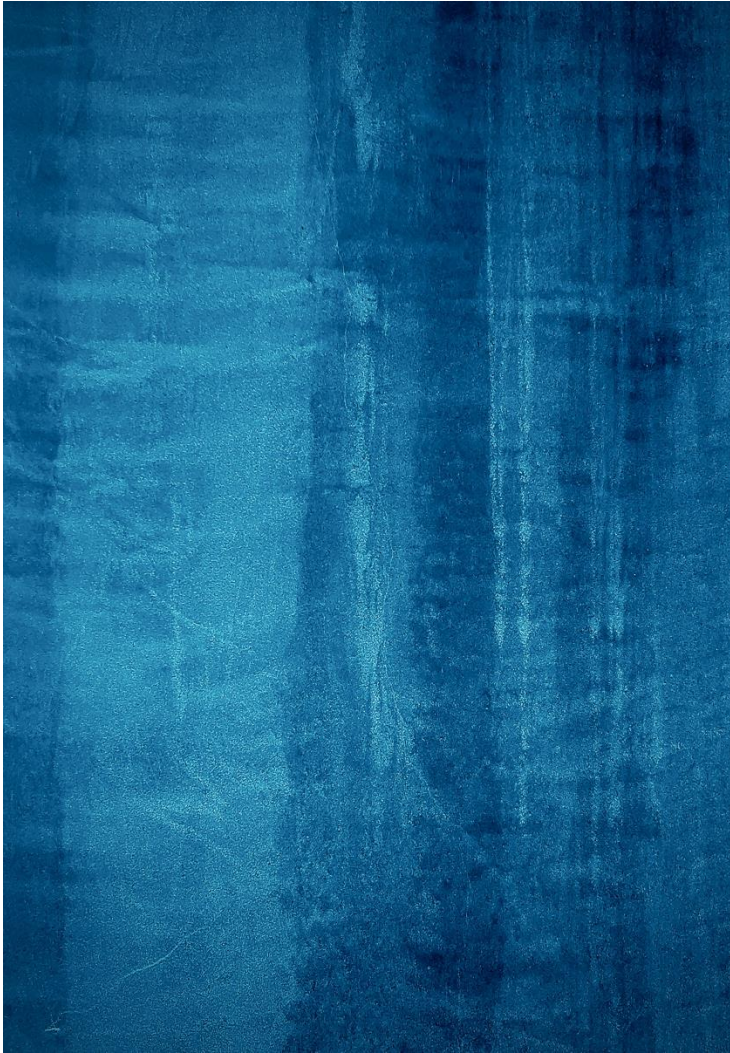


Christian Nationalism defines individuals by national identity, culture, and conformity to a political-religious ideal, rather than by God's image and their relationship with Christ. This creates exclusion, hierarchy, and division, in contrast to the inclusive and transformative identity the Gospel gives.

- 1. Identity Defined by Nation Rather Than Christ**
- 2. Belonging Linked to Culture and Heritage**
- 3. Division Between “Insiders” and “Outsiders”**
- 4. Value Based on Utility to the Movement**

Dealing with The Question of True Identity

Jesus shifts the focus when He asks, “But who do you say I am?” This question makes it personal, ***moving beyond the opinions of the crowd***. Jesus ***refuses to be defined by human projections or popular assumptions***; instead, His identity is anchored in the revelation of the Father. Peter responds with clarity: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus affirms this by saying, “Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.” This moment reveals that true identity is never discovered through human opinion but is revealed by God Himself.



When you see Jesus clearly, you begin to see yourself clearly. Identity in Christ reveals our true identity. Peter's recognition of Jesus as the Christ opened the way for Jesus to reveal Peter's own spiritual identity—"the rock" in God's plan. In the same way, our understanding of who we are is directly connected to our revelation of who Christ is.

We see Jesus through:
Struggles
Storms
Sitting with our Stories

