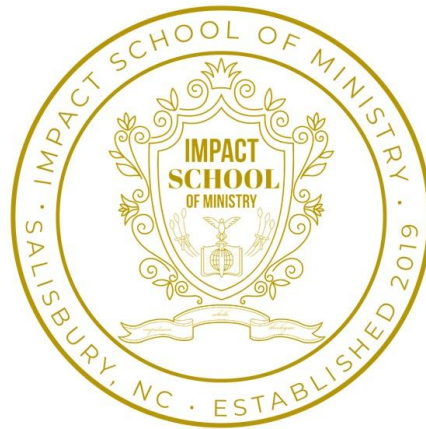


JUST WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

A Study on Identity in Christ

IMPACT SCHOOL OF MINISTRY



Kenneth A. Koontz

Textbook for the Course:

Just Who Do You Think You Are?
An Introduction to Finding Your True Identity
By Kenneth A. Koontz

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THE INSTRUCTOR

Kenneth A. Koontz, apostle and pastor

Educational Background

Pastor Ken graduated from Morrilton High School, attended University of Central Arkansas, and has been a lifelong student of the Word of God.

Professional Responsibilities

Pastor Ken has an entrepreneurial background in construction and electrical contracting. He became a journeyman electrician at age 18 and a master at 21. Leadership skills were an early part of His education and experience. In 1980 upon answering the call of God to ministry, he was licensed and ordained by World Ministry Fellowship International where he continues to serve as a member of the executive board. He and Kay planted churches in Morrilton Arkansas and in Paris, Texas. He served as missions director for Hope for Africa Ministries in Ft. Worth, Texas, and founded a church in Salisbury, North Carolina in 1986, now known as Northgate Church.

He also established First Light Ministries for the purpose of reaching the lost in the 10/40 window focusing on the Middle East. Over the last 30 years he helped to establish Galilee School of Ministry in Nazareth, Israel which raised up many of the Arab Christian leaders serving in the church in Israel today. He continues to serve as an apostle and a father in the body of Christ, alongside his wife, Kay, to strategically important churches and saints of God there.

His focus now is to build and/or strengthen the foundation of the Word of God in believers and churches so that Christ's body will stand faithful to the end.

Family

Ken has been married to Kay Koontz for 47 years as of 2023. They have 3 children, Kristen Carmitchel, Joshua Koontz, and Katie Leslie. They also have 15 grandchildren and a great-grandchild on the way. All of their children are serving the Lord.

COURSE SYLLABUS

- I. COURSE TITLE: Just Who Do You Think You Are? A Study on Identity in Christ
- II. COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to help the Church understand the biblical narrative of our unique identity.
- III. COURSE OBJECTIVES:
 - A. To enable the students to understand the revelation of the uniqueness of the body of Christ against the backdrop of human philosophies of self determination
 - B. To equip the students to live by faith in the “New Man” realities that are revealed
- IV. COURSE TEXTS:

Koontz, Kenneth A. *Just Who Do You Think You Are? An Introduction to Finding Your True Identity* Winona, MN: Agape Studios, 2017

The Holy Bible, NASB or NKJV
- V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
 - A. Read/study the course syllabus/study guide,& the textbook.
 - B. Attend all the class lectures.
 - C. Complete the final examination as assigned by your director.

VI. COURSE EVALUATION:

A. Attendance at all the lectures is required. If a lecture is missed for any reason, the director must be informed in advance and the student will listen to an audio tape of the lesson.

B. Final Examination

VII. COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Childers, Alisa *Another Gospel*, 2020 Tyndale Elevate

LESSON 1

I AM, He is, We are, The Identity Narrative

*Know ye that the Lord is God. It is God who made us, and not we ourselves.
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. - Ps. 100:3*

Identity Revolution

We all have an identity. Our own DNA screams out our physical origins. DNA tests reveal information about our physical, racial, and ancestral identity, but that is not who we really are, is it?

In recent years a phenomenal interest in ancestry searches on the internet have sky-rocketed producing a whole genre of profitable industries offering information to those who are curious about their origins. The most recent of these companies asks for a swab of saliva for the purpose of testing our DNA. The idea is that if you know your distant heritage then it may somehow bring definition to who you are. It is a nice hobby but falls well short of meeting your real and deeper need to know WHO YOU REALLY ARE.

Billions of people worldwide are spiraling downward around the question of “Who Am I?” The more they try to find themselves, the more they are thwarted. Each person has a gnawing ache in their chest that begs for the answer that will satisfy them. They have cast off restraint and are delving into philosophies of wickedness and are practicing perversions of every kind in the vain pursuit of who they are.

Identity Revelation

It is God’s authority and His sovereignty that has determined who we really are. His redemptive work through Christ has made us free from all other false identities. The revelation of who we are is dynamic and has a vital movement in

our lives. We can feel it as a physical effect as we draw closer to God. It feels like we are moving up and drawing closer into our destiny. *Knowing the truth about your identity precedes your ability to walk in your destiny!*

Receiving Christ constitutes the beginning of a new species of mankind, and that new man will become the one that will reign forever with Him as joint heirs **(Romans 8:16-18)**.

We know that mankind's intended identity was cut off very early in his existence. The Bible says that even now, all of creation cries out for the new man to be revealed, (Romans 8:19) but there is only one person who can resolve the riddle of you. He is the great "I Am"— therefore He should certainly know who I am?

So who do you think you are?

1. Write a list using your current understanding of who you think you are.
List 5 descriptive names that best represent who you think you are.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

2. Write a list of names that best describes who other people think you are.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

Do any of these descriptions match the biblical world view? Why or why not?

Lesson 2

In the beginning God . . .

1. In the Beginning God In the Creation Narrative we see the first of everything. In the Creation we see the first clue of who man is intended to become.
2. **Elohim** is the descriptive name God gives Himself in these verses. It is one of the Hebrew plural names of God and points to the triune God, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. Elohim appears over 2500 times in the Tanakh. **Elohay Kadem** is also used as God at the beginning.
3. Our knowledge of who God and Jesus are is paramount for our growth and maturity as we become the mature sons of God.

John 17:3

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

4. When God describes one of His divine attributes it becomes one of His “Redemptive” Names.
5. Let us look at some of the redemptive names that God has given Himself to describe and reveal His character and nature.
6. God revealed His name to Moses in a burning bush.

He did not say Jehovah, Yahweh, or any of the names of the Egyptian gods that Moses knew. It was a definition, or rather an Identity, that replied.

Exodus 3:14 “Tell them, ‘**I AM THAT I AM**’ has sent you.”

Here we see that God identifies Himself to Moses as “**Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh**” *I am that I am*. Many scholars think that to Moses’s ears it would mean “*I Exist, I Am and I Will Be.*”

Some also believe that this could be translated as ***I will be what I will be.***
He WHO IS is, WHO HE REVEALS HIMSELF TO BE!

A. _____ is the name God uses in the creation story.

B. Why does this name point to the Trinity? _____

C. This is Life Eternal that they might _____

and _____ John 17:3

D. What name of God was Moses told to use with the Israelites and Pharaoh? _____

7. The Redemptive Names of God found in the following Scriptures:

a. ***El Shaddai:*** *He is God of the wilderness. God who is more than enough. (Gen. 17:1-2) (All sufficient one) (the many breasted one)*

b. ***Elohim Chaim:*** *Living God* (Deut. 5:26, Joshua 3:10)

c. ***Elohim:*** *The One and Only True God! This plural form of God’s name implies the Trinity. The Greek word translating the Hebrew Elohim is used 2570 times in Septuagint. (Gen. 1:1)*

- d. **Yahweh:** (Also latinized into **JEHOVAH**) LORD - He that is who He is, The eternal I AM. This word is used 6000 times in the Hebrew Bible. It means Creator.
- e. **Jehovah Tsidkeenu:** God our righteousness (**Jer.23:6, I Cor. 1:30, I John 2:1**)
- f. **Jehovah Rapha:** God our healer (**Ex. 15:26, Is. 53:5**)
- g. **Jehovah Nissi:** God our victory (banner) (**Exodus 17:15**)
- h. **Jehovah Shalom:** God our peace (**Judges 6:24**)
- i. **Jehovah Jireh:** God our provider (**Genesis 22:14**)
- j. **Jehovah Shammah:** God who knows where you are! (**Ezekiel 48:35**) (**Isa. 60:19-20**) He sees you and is present with you.
- k. **Adonai:** Lord - Master (**Gen. 15:1-2**)
- l. **Jehovah Sabaoth:** Lord of Hosts Our protector (**Psalms 46:7**)
- m. **Jehovah Raah:** God our Shepherd who loves us and will nurture us (**Psalms 23**) Raah appears 80 times in the Old Testament.
- n. **Jehovah Hoseenu:** The Lord our Maker – **Ps. 95:6**
- o. **Jehovah Mkaddish:** The Lord that sanctifies (personal purification) (**Ex. 31:13, 1 Cor.1:30**)

Lesson 3

Adam: the Created son of God

Gen. 1:26-28

*26 Then God said, "Let Us make mankind (**Adam**) in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the livestock and over all the earth, and over every crawling thing that crawls on the earth." **27** So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **28** God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

On days one through six, God created billions if not trillions of elements that became our universe. From the micro to the macro, things seen and things unseen even time itself, God brought them forth. Then on the end of the 6th day he brought forth Mankind (Adam) in the image and likeness of God-kind.

The 6th day is Man Day! In Adam we see many of the attributes of God. God gave him to become one with his own Identity.

1. Man's (Adam's) first identity is the **CREATED SON OF GOD!**

He was made in the _____ and _____
of God (Elohim), the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

2. As the **Created Son of God**, Adam (Red Clay) was set up to succeed!
Everything but one thing was given to him to both manage and to enjoy. In addition to that He walked daily with God. He was assigned to:
 - a. Tend the Garden of Creation.
 - b. To name all the creatures.

- c. To exercise rule and dominion over all things God created.
- d. To steward his family faithfully.
- e. To become his potential.

■ **Have these assignments changed or ceased?**

3. The one thing that was NOT given to Adam is the only thing that could have prevented him from obtaining the most IMPORTANT thing that God had planted for him, the TREE of LIFE.

Gen. 2:15-17

And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

■ **What was the ONE THING not given to Adam and Eve?**

4. Adam abdicated his identity as the Created son of God through sin. He became the Prodigal son of God. As the Prodigal son of God, Adam lost access to:
 - a. The garden of God
 - b. The authority of God
 - c. The security of God's protection and provision
 - d. The constant presence of God
5. Adam lost his everlasting life status and his uncorrupted God image!
6. Adam's act of rebellion was the Sin of ingratitude. Ingratitude remains the origin of all our sins.

7. Mankind's identity became less and less godlike and more and more Luciferic. As the **Prodigal sons of God** the only access we had to God was established through the blood of innocent animals that were sacrificed on our behalf. Those sacrifices were initiated by God himself. **(Gen. 3:21)**

God set a time in history to send His redeemer to buy us back from death.

Gal. 4:1-7

*But I say that so long as the heir is a child, he differeth nothing from a bondservant though he is lord of all; 2 but is under guardians and stewards until the day appointed of the father. 3 So we also, when we were children, were held in bondage under the rudiments of the world: 4 **but when the fulness of the time came**, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 that he might redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the **adoption of sons**. 6 And because ye are sons, God sent forth the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba, Father 7 So that thou art no longer a bondservant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.*

- A. What sins were involved in the Fall?
- B. How did ingratitude play a part in the Fall?
- C. Name two things Adam lost in the Fall.
- D. What was God's arrangement of a temporary way for man to access His Presence?
- E. In the fullness of time God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under that law to _____ those under the law that we might receive the _____ of sons.

Lesson 4

Jesus: the Only Begotten Son of God

Not long after Adam's sin and the loss of all things, God made a prophetic promise. "I will not always strive with man" (**Gen. 6:3**) and "I will send my own arm to save" (**Isa. 59:16, 63:5-6**) The seed of woman would crush the head of the serpent (Satan) (**Genesis 3:15**)

Man's deliverer would come from the seed of a woman. Jesus is that seed He is the individual that is fully man and fully God. He is the exact representation of God and the fullness of the God-head, (Trinity) in the form of a man. (**Hebrews 1:3**)

Jesus' Identity Revealed as the Only Begotten Son of God

This terminology (The Only Begotten Son Of God) is found in the Apostles Creed and it is rehearsed millions of times a year by the faithful. But what does it mean?

It refers to the virgin birth of Jesus through Mary by the Holy Spirit. Jesus was God's begotten Son.

Jesus was born without Adamic sin in His blood. His genetics were clean of Adams blood guiltiness.

The only legitimate door into this world is through the womb. There is one to come who will gain access to humanity another way. "Truly, truly I say to you, the one who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. —**John 10:1**

Adam was created from clay but Jesus was born like all other humans except that he had no stain of sin.

This status qualified him to be the only pure and innocent sacrifice to free us all from the captivity of sin and death. He is the SEED of the woman.

Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, is the sum total of all of God's redemptive names. He personifies and completes the physical realities of who God says He is. When Jesus came to Earth, God came to Earth and lived as a Man. He said:

"If you had known Me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you know him and have seen Him. —John 14:7

Now we see the Names of God in light of the Jesus, *Only Begotten Son*:

He is Emmanuel, God with Us Matt. 1:2

He is the Lamb.....1 Peter 1:19-20

He is Prince of Peace, Wonderful, Counselor. Isa. 9:6

He is I Am John 8:58

He is Alpha and Omega. Rev. 1:8

He is the Rose of Sharon. Song 2:1

He is the Balm of Gilead.. . . . Jer. 8:22

He is the Light of the World. John 8:12

He is the Resurrection and the Life.. John 11:25
He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life John 14:6
He is the Manna from Heaven. John 6:51
He is the Messiah John 1:41
He is the Rabbi John 1:49
He is the First Born of a New Race of Men. Rom. 8:29
He is the Author and Finisher of our Faith Heb 12:2

LESSON 5

Establishing your Identity upon the Rock

Peter's Revelation

Another important event happened with Jesus and His disciples in Caesarea Philippi. Caesaria Phillipi was the new Roman city being built on the ruins of dozens of other settlements at the base of Mount Hermon in the mountains of Israel.

Its Greek name is Baniyas or the temple of the mythological god, Pan. It was known for being one of the headwaters of the Jordan River. Jesus and His disciples were in the vicinity of the ancient site when this incredibly revealing conversation occurred.

Read **Matthew 16:13-20**

13 Now when Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" **14** And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets." **15** He said to them, "But who do you yourselves say that I am?" **16** Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." **17** And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon [u]Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. **18** And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this [u]rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. **19** I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you [u]loose on earth [u]shall have been loosed, in heaven." **20** Then He gave the disciples strict orders that they were to tell no one that He was the Christ.

Who do you say Jesus is?

How did this information come to you?

Just as Peter heard from God Himself, we too must hear from God and agree or reject the Identity of our Messiah. Peter and the disciples were walking daily with the Lord and saw and participated in wonders and signs and miracles.

Their hearts were set on fire by His teachings and their minds were overwhelmed with awe at His wisdom. Jesus exuded Love. Hope abounded everywhere they went. Yet they still had the unasked question, *“Who is this Guy?”*

As Simon answers with the revelation he received from God, Jesus bursts forth with joy and makes the command decision to change Simon Bar Jonah’s name to Peter. (*“Petros” means a small piece of the larger rock*)

Jesus went on to say, “. . . and upon this Rock . . . (*“Petra” which means the massive mountain of immovable, irreducible stone*) Jesus spoke of what God revealed to Peter, Revelation Knowledge, as the Rock on which He would build His Church. The proceeding Word of God is how He builds His Church.

. . . upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it.

At His baptism God announced Jesus as His Son.

At Peter’s revelation Jesus was announced as the *“Messiah”*, the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

Let’s continue to study the revealed Christ, and we will find our own Identity.

He is the Passover Lamb John 1:36

He is the Sacrifice for Sin. Hebrew 9:26

He is the Son of God. John 10:36

He is the King of Righteousness Hebrews 7:2

He is the Soon and Coming King Luke 19:38

He is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. Rev. 5:5

He is the Root of David Rev. 5:5

He is the Lord Adonai. Col. 2:6

He is the Word Made Flesh John 1:1-4

He is the Creator Col. 1:16

He is the Healer. Mal. 4:2

He is Our Advocate 1 John 2:1

He is Our Intercessor Heb. 7:25

He is the True Vine John 15:1

He is the Good Shepherd John 10:11

He is the Door of the Sheep John 10:9

He is the King of the Jews. John 19:2

He is the Son of Man. Luke 6:5

He is Lord of the Sabbath Luke 6:5

He is All Powerful Matt. 28:18

He is Our Friend. John 15:5

He is Our Comforter John 14:16

He is the apostle of our faith.Hebrews 3:1

We know Jesus is the fulfillment and personification of all of God's attributes. He is God incarnate, compassionate and caring. (Heb. 1:3) (Col. 1:15)

He is the defender of the weak and the deliverer of the captive. He is who He says He is, or we are not who He says we are. (Luke 4:18) (Eph. 4:8)

The scriptures tell us that Jesus knows us and calls us by name. (John 10:1-18) He alone has the power and authority to set a man's identity. The one who determines our identity is the captain of our destiny. He is The Good Shepherd.

LESSON 6

The Great Reveal

REVIEW:

- God reveals Himself through His redemptive names.
- God made man in His own image and his own likeness.
- Adam was the Created Son of God.
- Sin hacked Adam's life and destroyed the image and likeness of God within him.
- Stolen Identity and stolen authority pursued man until Christ.
- Death entered into the equation of Life and Adam's new Identity was now the "Prodigal Son of God". Until the redeemer came all of his descendants were bound to His fate.
- Jesus was the last Adam. He is the ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD. He is God with us, Emmanuel. He was the Lamb who was pure and undefiled. He was put to death for us and made a new and living way for all those who believe. He establishes our identity and is the Captain of our destiny. In Him we live and move and have our being.
- Because of our faith in His sacrifice on the Cross as the offering for our sins, He has made us new creatures (with new identities) Our Old Identities are gone. Behold, new things have come. (2Cor. 5:17)

God the Father is the One who established the identity of Jesus through what I call the Great Reveal.

We find the Great Reveal in Luke 3:21-22.

Jesus heard His Father's Voice

Luke 3:21-22

21 Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus also was baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, **22** and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came from heaven: "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well pleased."

God Himself identified Jesus as His Beloved Son (Gk. *huios*), one who bears the name and owns the rights to the Father's inheritance.

Until that moment everything about Jesus was speculative. After that moment of declaration, the true Identity of Jesus began to spread.

Jesus was led immediately into the wilderness to endure the temptation to reject, deny, or misapply the revelation of His freshly declared Identity.

The Temptation of Jesus

Read Matthew 4:1-11.

Satan's attack came after 40 days of fasting and prayer while Jesus was physically weak. Yet His spirit had never been stronger. Just as the serpent deceived Eve in the Garden, Satan tried to use subtlety in questioning Jesus' new revealed Identity saying; "If you are the the son of God, then In each of these three temptations Jesus answers, "It is written".

Jesus validates and protects His "God Identity" by citing the Word of God. Notice he refused to debate with or engage Satan's implied accusation. Instead, Jesus relied on the truth found in the power and evidence of the Scriptures.

The baptism of Jesus and the divine pronouncement of who Jesus is, was heard by all principalities and power and rulers of darkness and wickedness in high places. They were given notice that day of their impending judgment.

From that point forward in the ministry of Jesus an exponential upturn in the miraculous power of God began to occur wherever He went.

LESSON 7

New Man Identity: The Adopted Sons of God

Our identity now as adopted sons of God is only made possible by the Spirit of Adoption.

The Holy Spirit! *“He (the Spirit) bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God . . . If we are the children of God then we are the heirs — heirs of God and coheirs with Christ . . .”* (Romans 8:17-19)

Through faith in Jesus we are adopted sons. We are full recipients of all of the heritage which God prepared for the only Begotten Son of God, Jesus. It is He who delivered us from the sin nature of the created son of God, Adam.

With this heritage we are no longer subjected to “Adam’s Sin”, nor the “Curse of the Law”. Galatians 3:13 says, *“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us— for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’ “.*

Romans 8:1-2 declares our liberty by saying, *“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.”*

“The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus” is now the very matrix from which we can mine all the riches of the Kingdom of God. From our new status as adopted sons of God we are filled with the Holy Spirit and are now free to choose the life we were meant to live. “ Chapter 13, page 106-107 JWDYTYA

God has No Grandchildren, Only Children

(Colossians 3: 9-10) I have put off the old man and have put on the new man, which is renewed in the knowledge after the image of Him who created me.

(2 Corinthians 5:17) Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

(Ephesians 4:24)and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

(Colossians 3:12-14) So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. Romans 6:6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;

(Colossians 3:10)and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—

(Romans 13:14) But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

(2 Corinthians 3:18) But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

(John 15:1-8) “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.read more.

(1 John 5:4) For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

(2 Corinthians 4:16) Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

(Ephesians 2:14-16) For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity

(1 John 3:9) No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

(Ezekiel 11:1) And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,

(Ephesians 3:16) . . . that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,

(Colossians 1:11) . . . strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously

(John 3:6) . . . That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

LESSON 8

New Man Mentality Leads to New Man reality

The new man mentality is formed after the image, likeness, and thoughts of God. Just like in Creation, everything you need for life and godly living has been installed within your spirit. The Holy Spirit was given to you to teach, guide, and reveal to you all truth and the will of God. He also keeps you from evil. His responsibilities include revealing to us the character and nature of God, reminding us of Christ's teachings, and opening to us the principles of the economy of God.

God-O-Nomics

Under the Economy of God, we are taught several basic tenets of faith which shape our new Identity as Adopted Sons of God.

The following scriptures illustrate that economy.

Mt. 5:21-42

:21 "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT MURDER,' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be answerable to the court.'²² "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be answerable to the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be answerable to the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.²³ "Therefore, if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you. ²⁴ leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. ^{:25} "Come to good terms with your accuser quickly, while you are with him on the way to court, so that your accuser will not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you will not be thrown into prison. ²⁶ "Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid up the last quadrans.²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY';²⁸ but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ "Now if your right eye is causing you to sin, tear it out and throw it away from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.³⁰ "And if your right hand is causing you to sin, cut it off and throw it away from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.³¹ "Now it was said,

'WHOEVER SENDS HIS WIFE AWAY IS TO GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE';³² but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.³³ "Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FALSE VOWS, BUT SHALL FULFILL YOUR VOWS TO THE LORD. Mat 5:34 "But I say to you, take no oath at all, neither by heaven, for it is the throne of God,³⁵ nor by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, nor by Jerusalem, for it is THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING.³⁶ "Nor shall you take an oath by your head, for you cannot make a single hair white or black.³⁷ "But make sure your statement is, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil origin³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, 'EYE FOR EYE, and TOOTH FOR TOOTH.'⁹ "But I say to you, do not show opposition against an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other toward him also. 40 "And if anyone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak also.⁴¹ "Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two.⁴² "Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you

YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST DECLARATIONS

In the following scriptures you will find words and phrases concerning your new Identity in Christ. Read and meditate on them then confess them over and over until you get them installed in front of your consciousness.

I am crucified with Christ nevertheless I live, it is not I who live, but Christ lives in me. The life that I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God.....(*Galatians 2: 20*)

I am a new creature in Christ.....(*2 Corinthians 5: 17*)

I am complete in Him Who is the Head of all principality and power.....(*Colossians 2: 10*)

I am a joint-heir with Christ.....(*Romans 8: 17*)

I am more than a conqueror through Him.....(*Romans 8: 37*)

I am alive with Christ.....(*Ephesians 2: 5*)

I am free from the law of sin and death..... (*Romans 8: 2*)

I am healed by the stripes of Jesus.....(*Isaiah 53: 5; 1 Peter 2: 24*)

I am far from oppression, and fear does not come near me...(*Isaiah 54: 14*)

I am born of God, and the evil one does not touch me.....(*1 John 5: 18*)

I am holy and without blame before Him in love.....(*Ephesians 1: 4; 1 Peter 1: 16*)

I have the mind of Christ.....*1 Corinthians 2: 16; Philippians 2: 5*)

I have the peace of God that passes all understanding.....(*Philippians 4: 7*)

I have the Greater One living in me; greater is He Who is in me than he who is in the world.....(*1 John 4: 4*)

I have received the gift of righteousness and reign as a king in life by Jesus Christ.....(*Romans 5: 17*)

I have received the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Jesus, the eyes of my understanding being enlightened....(*Ephesians 1: 17-18*)

I have received the power of the Holy Spirit to lay hands on the sick and see them recover, to cast out demons, to speak with new tongues. I have power over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means harm me.....(*Mark 16: 17-18; Luke 10: 17-19*)

I have given, and it is given to me; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, men give into my bosom.....(*Luke 6: 38*)

I have no lack, for my God supplies all of my need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.....(*Philippians 4: 19*)

I can quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one with my shield of faith.....(*Ephesians 6: 16*)

I can do all things through Christ Jesus.....(*Philippians 4: 13*)

I show forth the praises of God Who has called me out of darkness into His marvelous light.....(*1 Peter 2: 9*)

I am God's child for I am born again of the incorruptible seed of the Word of God, which lives and abides forever.....(*1 Peter 1: 23*)

I am God's workmanship, created in Christ unto good works..(*Ephesians 2: 10*)

I am a spirit being alive to God.....(*Romans 6: 11; 1 Thessalonians 5: 23*)

I am a believer, and the light of the Gospel shines in my mind.....(*2 Corinthians 4: 4*)

I am a doer of the Word and blessed in my actions.....(*James 1: 22, 25*)

I am an overcomer by the blood of the Lamb and the word of my testimony.....(*Revelation 12: 11*)

I am a partaker of His divine nature.....(*2 Peter 1: 3-4*)

I am an ambassador for Christ.....(*2 Corinthians 5: 20*)

I am part of a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a purchased people.....(*1 Peter 2: 9*)

I am the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ.....(*2 Corinthians 5: 21*)

I am the temple of the Holy Spirit; I am not my own.....(*1 Corinthians 6: 19*)

I am the head and not the tail; I am above only and not beneath.....(*Deuteronomy 28: 13*)

I am the light of the world.....(*Matthew 5: 14*)

I am His elect, full of mercy, kindness, humility, and long suffering.....(*Romans 8: 33; Colossians 3: 12*)

I am forgiven of all my sins and washed in the Blood.....(*Ephesians 1: 7*)

I am delivered from the power of darkness and translated into God's kingdom.....(*Colossians 1: 13*)

I am redeemed from the curse of sin, sickness, and poverty.....(*Deuteronomy 28: 15-68; Galatians 3: 13*)

I am firmly rooted, built up, established in my faith and overflowing with gratitude.....(*Colossians 2: 7*)

I am called of God to be the voice of His praise.....(*Psalm 66: 8; 2 Timothy 1: 9*)

I am raised up with Christ and seated in heavenly places....(*Ephesians 2: 6; Colossians 2: 12*)

I am greatly loved by God....(*Romans 1: 7; Ephesians 2: 4; Colossians 3: 12; 1 Thessalonians 1: 4*)

I am strengthened with all might according to His glorious power.....(*Colossians 1: 11*)

I am submitted to God, and the devil flees from me because I resist him in the Name of Jesus.....(*James 4: 7*)

LESSON 9

Understanding the times

1 Chronicles 12:32 Of the Sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do.....

David was given an entire tribe of people who were wise and discerning about what there times and about the direction that is should go forward.

We too are given modern day (Sons of Issachar) who understand the times and who know what the Church is to do. God does not leave us fatherless nor without wisdom.

These folks can smell heresies a mile off and can offer us direction and wisdom for facing the heresies of our age.

Heresies of our Age

In 1973 I had a dear friend who lost his emerging identity in Christ due to Progressive Christian Theology. He was called by God and had once been superbly anointed to preach and teach the Gospel of Jesus. My friend was also tremendously gifted for the effective ministry of encouragement and prayer. The denomination that he belonged to insisted that he attend their seminary and become their disciple. They wanted him to become what I call a “company man”. After two years he returned to our town a shipwrecked soul, bereft of faith. Instead of being bolstered and established in his identity in Christ as a son of God, his heart was a ruin. They actually succeeded in stripping him of his identity and faith. My friend was definitely a casualty of various heretical teachings that have overtaken our schools of theology.

Since the advent of the organized, institutionalized church, the identity of Christ has been attacked. In some extreme cases Christianity has been replaced with “Christianism.” (Having a form of Godliness, but denying the power of Christ.)

Many heresies have risen and have been defeated from the very first days after the Pentecost. (Acts 2:4) False prophets and teachers have thrived and multiplied right alongside the spread of the truth of the Gospel. Old heresies like Gnosticism, Montanism, Arianism, Docetism, and many others abounded during the last 2000 years. Wolves in sheep's clothing infiltrate the flock of God with the intent of robbing us of our liberty and Identity as Adopted Sons of God.

These forms of Christianity exist to confound and complicate the Gospel with other "Isms", Isms like Calvinism, Arminianism, Preterism, Easy Believism, Rapturism, Pre, Mid and Post Millennialism.

Marxism, Humanism, Communism, Nihilism, Capitalism, all these and more have emerged to muddy the once clear waters of our Christian faith. They turned many away from the goodness of God and the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. Remember that in the last days the philosophies and traditions of men will attempt to make the word of God ineffectual.

Our identity as the Adopted Sons of God is the focus of all these attacks. However, the newest "Ism" on the block is called Progressivism or Progressive "Christianity". It is a more refined and pervasive enemy of Christ and of our Identity in Him. It has been launched from Hell against the very foundations of our faith.

The first area of attack is against the validity of God Himself. The second attack is against the validity of Christ and the Gospels. The third is set against the transformation of mankind from his identity as sinner to his identity as an adopted son of God.

Theological Progressivism within Christianity

The Bible is viewed more like a book of suggestions and possibilities than an authoritative standard for truth. Other philosophies also compete with the

Gospel of Christ through social, cultural, religious, and political schools of thought. Some of these are powerful deceptions which, having been accepted, have bankrupted and corrupted the faith of many.

Progressivism is the philosophy of re-interpreting the Bible, re-accessing historic doctrines, and re-defining core tenets of our faith. In Progressive “Christianity” God has been relegated to be an outdated notion and spiritual relic of an uneducated and unscientific people. Sin is not usually a factor, and thus a Savior may not be needed.

Progressivism has grown from the roots of philosophies of Critical Theory.

Critical Theory

Critical Theory has its roots in the Western European Marxist traditions known as the Frankfurt School. It is a broad based attack upon our Identity as Adopted Sons of God through Christ.

It poses as a field of study concerned with formulating and evaluating intellectual approaches to the analysis or interpretation of works of art, texts, and other cultural artifacts. Critical theory encompasses such theories as New Criticism, Marxism, structuralism, deconstruction, and postcolonial theory.

Critical theorists see Christianity and our historically settled truth as the source of oppression that must be deconstructed.

They consider that there is no God of truth, nor any absolutes from which to establish trusted foundations upon which we might live. In their view our creeds and statements of faith stand in the way of “liberty” and to indulge in depravity of every kind. In all things Critical Theory teaches separation and racism in pursuits of self interest.

The doctrine of Critical Theory engages deconstruction of and cancellation of Christian belief. The elimination of Christian values and morals must be accomplished in all educational, social, scientific, political, and cultural disciplines.

CT has spawned the current Cancel Culture of our day, using the sledge hammer of media and public opinion to accomplish their goals.

“Social Justice” is the holy grail of all current CT activities, and adherents of CT justify accomplishing their goals by any means necessary. Social Justice is the ruse that is used to accomplish the most sinister strategy against Christ in history.

All who have opposing or questioning points of view are considered oppressors and must be relegated to the garbage heap of history. Make no mistake, we are squarely in the gun sights of this powerful philosophy.

Critical Race Theory (CRT), a child of Critical Theory, is the most divisive movement in the history of the United States since the Civil War.

LESSON 10

We are Who He Says We Are-The Debate is Settled!

In my book, ***Just Who Do You Think You Are?***, I dedicated several pages to seeing the larger narrative of how Satanic schemes are like “tares” that grow up adjacent to the “wheat” found in **Matthew 13:24-30** (Read aloud).

The Tare is a darnel weed that is prevalent in the Israeli and Palestinian biome. It is largely indistinguishable from wheat until it matures. The fruit of the tare is bitter and inedible. Until the final harvest the tares will propagate alongside the wheat. They will compete with the true planting of the Lord for all the resources that are dedicated to the successful harvesting of the wheat.

Tares are symbolic of false prophets and teachers who try to rob you of your identity in Christ. Their philosophies produce and proclaim a false narrative of who you are made to become. The Apostle Paul was very concerned about this in the church of Corinth and warned them.

2 Cor. 11:2-4 *2 For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. 3 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his trickery, your minds will be led astray from sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 4 For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, this you tolerate very well.*

We are not Eve, but we do have choices to make about embracing who we are. We can resist the temptation to embrace a separate Identity from the one God has given us.

Righteousness of God in Christ

“God has made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” —2 Corinthians 5:21

My ***New Man Identity*** is “righteous one”, and my way of life is now the practice of faith, not doubting.

The DBR says, *“Doubt and unbelief are the only paths to truth.”* Instead of an obscure method, Doubt and Unbelief have become a Mantra to the leaders and influencers of our day. How much more clear can it be? Once you buy into the “Doubt and Unbelief” system of thinking, you find yourself cut off from your Identity in Christ.

The result of long term exposure to “Doubt-Based Reasoning” will cause you to reject the identity you were given by God as “the Righteous One”, until you can no longer see the promise of life in Christ.

Thank the Lord that we now have the Holy Spirit and the MORE SURE word of prophecy. The Spirit and the Word will lead, guide and protect our identity from all the schemes of Satan.

My hope is that these lessons are both revelational and practical for the purpose of restoring the clear path that leads to the manifestation of the Sons of God.

Summary

John 17:3 says: This is eternal life, to know God and Jesus Christ His Son.

Knowing the character and nature of God and the life and teachings of Jesus Christ is essential to be able to know yourselves.

Your divine purpose and destiny are inseparable from your living in the reality and mentality of your new man Identity as the Adopted Sons of God.

Review the scriptures found in lessons 2-4-5-and 8. Confess them over and over until your mind and heart are trained to think and act in a way that reflects what those Scriptures reveal.

Remember that you are dead to the old man identity (Crucified with Christ) yet you now live by the faith of Christ. **(Gal. 2:20)**

Each of you has the divine seed in you. Water that seed by washing in the water of the word of God in all you do and wherever you go.

Psa 57:11 Be exalted above the heavens, God; *May* Your glory *be* above all the earth!

GLOSSARY

Arianism- Christian heresy that declared that Christ is not truly divine but a created being

Arminianism-This belief states that man is depraved due to the fall, but man is still able to come to God and accept salvation. emphasizes conditional election based on God's foreknowledge, man's free will through prevenient grace to cooperate with God in salvation, Christ's universal atonement, resistible grace, and salvation that can potentially be lost.

Calvinism

Includes the ideas that we cannot do anything to be saved since God is so sovereign that if it was predestined to happen it will happen.; Jesus didn't die for everyone, just the elect (or pre-saved).; the concept that those who are truly saved (or pre-determined to be saved, we should say) will not be able to resist the grace of God.; the concept of being saved forever once you are saved and that you cannot lose your salvation.

Capitalism-a way of organizing an economy so that the things that are used to make and transport products (such as land, oil, factories, ships, etc.) are owned by individual people and companies rather than by the government

Critical Theory-Critical theory functions as a worldview, but it tells [an] alternate comprehensive, overarching story about reality from Christianity. The story of critical theory begins with oppression. According to CT people don't primarily exist in relation to God, but in relation to other people and to other groups. Human identity is not defined primarily in terms of who we are as God's creatures. Instead, we should define ourselves in terms of race, class, sexuality, and gender identity. Oppression, not sin, is our fundamental problem. What is the solution? Activism. Changing structures. Raising awareness. To work to overthrow and dismantle hegemonic power is the primary moral duty. The purpose in life is to work for the liberation of all oppressed groups so that a state of equality can be achieved. (STR-Amy Hall)

Critical Race Theory (CRT)- *"an analytical framework to analyze institutions and culture. Its purpose is to divide the world into white oppressors and non-white victims. Instead of traditional forms of knowledge, it holds up personal narratives of marginalized minority "victim" groups (blacks, Hispanics, Asians) as evidence (considered irrefutably by its nature) of the dishonesty of their mostly white heterosexual oppressors."* --Dr. Carol Swain, former (black) professor of political science and law at Vanderbilt University

Docetism-Christian heresy affirming that Christ did not have a real or natural body during his life on earth but only an apparent or phantom one.

Gnosticism-a movement in the early Christian church, considered heretical, whose followers believed the physical world was evil and wished to live as far as possible in the spiritual world

Humanism-a progressive philosophy of life that, without theism or other supernatural beliefs, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good./ stresses the importance of human factors rather than looking at religious, divine, or spiritual matter

Intersectionality Theory- refers to the idea of the interconnected nature of social categories like race, gender, class and how these identity markers create overlapping and interdependent systems of disadvantage or discrimination; In this system of thought, the more victimized the individual the more moral authority he or she supposedly has and should be given

Marxism-the belief that the struggle between social classes is a major force in history and that there should eventually be a society in which there are no classes

Nihilism-a viewpoint that traditional values and beliefs are unfounded and that existence is senseless and useless/ a doctrine that denies any objective ground of truth and especially of moral truths

Progressive "Christianity"- In progressive Christianity, the doctrine of original sin is abandoned and replaced with "original blessing" or "original goodness."; Jesus didn't die as a blood sacrifice offered to God for the sins of the world.; de-emphasizes the historicity of Jesus' miracles; He died to show us how to forgive our enemies by allowing himself to be crucified by an angry mob; embraces a rejection of biblical sexuality, and an affirmation of same-sex

The Frankfurt School - Known more appropriately as the school of Critical Theory, is a philosophical and sociological movement spread across many universities around the world. It was originally located at the Institute for Social Research (*Institut für Sozialforschung*), an attached institute at the Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany. The Institute was founded in 1923 thanks to a donation by Felix Weil with the aim of developing Marxist studies in Germany. After 1933, the Nazis forced its closure, and the

Institute was moved to the United States where it found hospitality at Columbia University in New York City.