

# **IDENTITY CRISIS**

## **Ephesians 2**

### **Big Idea**

Our identity is not ultimately determined by **who we were** or even by **what we do**. Our identity is determined by **what God has done for us and who He has made us to be**.

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### **I. REMEMBER WHO WE WERE**

#### **“Hello, My Name WAS...”**

Before Christ, Scripture gives us an uncomfortable but necessary description of our condition.

#### **1. Spiritually Dead**

- Sin separated us from God.
- We weren't merely struggling spiritually—we were **dead** spiritually.
- **Isaiah 59:2**

#### **2. Following the World**

- We followed a world and its values that are passing away.
- **Matthew 24:35**

#### **3. Children of Wrath**

- Our sin carried a penalty.
- **Romans 6:23**

#### **Key Thought:**

We need to remember who we were—not so that we live in shame, but so we understand the magnitude of what God has done.

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### **BUT GOD...**

These may be two of the most important words in Ephesians 2.

Our condition was hopeless **until God acted**.

We were dead—**BUT GOD**.

We were separated—**BUT GOD**.

We deserved judgment—**BUT GOD**.

The story of salvation isn't primarily about what we did to reach God. It is about **what God did to rescue us**.

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## II. REJOICE IN WHO OUR GOD IS

**“Hello, My God Is...”**

Our new identity begins with God's identity.

### 1. Rich in Mercy

God's mercy is abundant and generous.

### 2. Full of Great Love

God didn't simply say that He loved us—**He acted because of His love.**

### 3. The Almighty God

The God who possesses all power chose to show us mercy.

#### **Key Thought:**

Before we focus on who we have become, we should rejoice in **the God who made it possible.**

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## III. RECOGNIZE WHO GOD MADE US

**“Hello, God Made Me...”**

Because of what God has done, the old name no longer defines us.

### 1. Alive

God has made us alive in Christ.

With that new life comes **purpose.**

- **Matthew 28:19**

### 2. Following Christ

God gives us the power to live differently.

- **Romans 8:11**

### 3. Children of God

We now have a place in God's family.

- **Galatians 4:7**

Our new name could read:

**SAVED**

**HIS**

**FORGIVEN**

**CREATED**

**ALIVE**  
**CHOSEN**

**Key Thought:**

Christ doesn't simply improve our old identity. **He gives us a new one.**

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**IV. RESPOND TO HIM**

**“Who Will You Become?”**

The question isn't simply:

**“Who am I?”**

The greater question is:

**“Now that I know who God has made me, how will I live?”**

**Good Works Don't Give Us Our Identity**

Our works do not make us alive.

Our works do not save us.

Our works do not earn God's love.

God acted first.

**Good Works Flow From Our Identity**

Because God has made us alive, our lives should now reflect the One who saved us.

**Our identity shapes what we do—so do it all for God's glory.**

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**THE IDENTITY CHANGE**

**I WAS:**

Spiritually Dead

Following the World

A Child of Wrath

**BUT GOD...**

**MY GOD IS:**

Rich in Mercy

Great in Love

Almighty in Power

**GOD MADE ME:**

Alive

A Follower of Christ

A Child of God

### **Final Challenge**

Don't keep wearing an old name tag that God has already replaced.

Remember **who you were**.

Rejoice in **who God is**.

Recognize **who God made you**.

Respond by **living like it**.

**You have been given a new name. Now live from your new identity for the glory of God.**