



# The TRUTH About – Identity

29<sup>th</sup> August 2021  
Mark Wiltshire

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

## Connect:

“Identity is one of the most misunderstood and underrated aspects of modern human existence. Discovering and pursuing one’s true identity can be the difference between a happy, fulfilled existence and a life full of emptiness and confusion. The stakes are undoubtedly high. But many people have no idea where to even begin.”

(Secular ‘Self Help’ website)

1. What is identity?
2. What are the implications of mistaken identity?
3. What are the implications of a stolen identity?

## Engage:

- Important Questions to answer when considering ‘identity’:
4. **Who are you?** (“Name, Rank”, job, looks, on-line profiles, limitations)
    - Key facets of identity - gender, social class, marital status, race and ethnicity, religion, age and limitations/disability.
  5. **Where have you come from?** (Origins, expectations, good/bad past?)
  6. **Who do you identify with?** (People; family, friends, social network?)
  7. **How did you get here?** (Journey, happy/disappointed, fulfilled?)
  8. **Are you the person you want to be?** (Character, habits, failings, achieved?)
  9. **What do you want in life?** (What’s important, acceptance, value, goals?)
  10. **Where do you want to end up?** (Destination?)
  11. Have you become a little lost on your journey of life?

Collins dictionary definition:

*“The identity of a person (or place) is the characteristics that distinguish them from others.”*

also... “the fact (not fake) of being who or what a person or thing is”

## Framework:

12. What was God's original intention?

13. Read [Genesis 1:26-31](#)

- God is a God of order not disorder - He Created order from darkness
- Day 6 - Humanity created, after the animals, order in the earth
- Made in Gods image - This description is unique to Judeo-Christianity
- To 'Reign' over the animal kingdom (fish, birds, animals)
- God also created human beings as male and female
- This all happened before the fall of man and sin in the world

14. What is the 'image' of God?

15. **God's Image is in every human being:**

- **Express Emotions** - anger, frustration, joy, celebration
- **Rational Thought** - process complex ideas, not just 'instinct'
- **Spiritual Connection** - to the creator of the universe (Holy Spirit capacity - what other supernatural capacity did God intend?)
- **Show Compassion** - care for weak, vulnerable, hurting, unborn (never degrade another person made in God's image)
- **Express Love** - relational bond, brotherly love, passion, forgiveness, showing mercy
- **Create** - imagine a better future, innovate, invent, arts
- **Reveal God's image** - to others!

16. What is "truth"?

"If you look for truth, you may find comfort in the end; if you look for comfort you will not get either comfort or truth only soft soap and wishful thinking to begin, and in the end, despair."

C.S. Lewis

17. Read [Colossians 1:15](#)

18. How can you re-discover your God-given identity?

➤ Satan is at war with God to destroy your TRUE Identity; to steal and confuse.

19. Read [Colossians 1:16](#) – *This is your **starting point** for identity and purpose*

20. Read [Ephesians 1:11](#) – *We discover ourselves and God's plan for us (our maker knows best!)*

21. What destroys identity?

22. What restores identity?

**23. Your Identity in Christ:**

- Read [Ephesians 1:4-5](#) – "**I am Chosen and Loved**" - When were you chosen?
  - a. God sees us as having no faults when we are in Christ
  - b. God's Love [Romans 8:38-39](#) is unconditional, consistent
  - c. You are accepted and included [1 Corinthians 1:30](#)
- Read [1 Peter 1:18-19](#) - "**I have Value and Worth**"
  - a. Ransom is a payment demanded by someone else
  - b. To save us from an 'empty life' - what does this imply?
  - c. Something is only worth what someone else is prepared to pay! Jesus paid the greatest price.

- Read [Romans 8:1-2](#) – **“I am Forgiven - Not Condemned”**
    - a. Being ‘in Christ’ condemnation comes from the enemy/others
    - b. The law of the Spirit brings freedom - how?
    - c. What is forgiveness? Choosing not to Punish us, but to Propel us forward.
  - Read [Ephesians 2:10](#) – **“I am Created to make a Difference (Unique)”**
24. When I am ‘in Christ’ God starts working:
- a. God has No unplanned children!
  - b. Unlocks life - gives true freedom
  - c. Resets our thinking about ourselves - our priorities
  - d. Releases our spiritual potential
  - e. Helps us to recognise God’s direction
  - f. Discover we were planned and created to please God, not people!
25. What is your definition of success? To become famous, rich, powerful?

Success does not come from power, riches or fame.  
 No! Real success is “being the person God made me to be!”  
 Pastor Mark Wiltshire

26. The truth about identity, is that we can only find it ‘in Christ’. In Him we are CHOSEN, LOVED, VALUED, FORGIVEN and made to make a DIFFERENCE.