

Lesson 2A – Our Identity – Accepted, Loved, Right and Secure

We were made to find who we really are by *resting - being still and seeing ourselves “in Him.”*

- In the Garden God created everything else then He created His man. His work was finished and the next day God rested. **The first thing His man experienced was rest!**
- Have you realized that Jesus also completed the work on the cross so that we too can experience rest? Rest comes as we get our identity from being “in Him.”

What kind of relationship does Father have with Jesus?

- **How does Father treat Jesus?** That is the way He will treat you. **How does Father speak to Jesus?** That is the way He will speak to you.
- **Acts 17:28** says “*In Him we live and move and have our being.*” The more conscious we are of it being “Christ in us,” the more we can begin to see Him in us. Then we can imagine Father talking and interacting with us as He did with Jesus. That can lead to us allowing His thoughts to impact our thoughts, emotions and actions.
- Finally we can find our true identity in our **being** loved, accepted and so much more by our Heavenly Father.

Your True Identity – Accepted

1. In the beginning Father had a *face-to-face relationship* with Adam and Eve. They knew they were loved and accepted as they walked and talked with Father in the Garden.

- Can you imagine yourself living in that kind of environment?
- **Your parents were meant to model the character of God** and make your home like the Garden where you felt you belonged and experienced their love.
- Many of us *lost our identity of what it means to be a part of a family* and *especially Father God’s family*. Jesus found His total identity in being His Father’s beloved Son. He wants the same thing for you.
- He focused on His relationship with His Father. He wants **Christ to be the source of your security, the basis of your worth, and the only one who promises and never fails!**

2. Though Adam and Eve chose their own way and *rejected their Father*, that did not stop *Father. He came seeking them. Gen. 3:8*

- No matter how much we push Father away, He still seeks after us. Throughout the Old Testament His words show us His heart to seek us, love us and bring us home. Read **Jer. 3:12, 14, 19 The Message and Ezek. 34:11-16 NKJV**
- The only place we will find our self-worth is by being in relationship with Father.
- Our need to belong and be accepted can only be satisfied by Father. **He is the true source of love and acceptance.**
- He is the One who draws all men to Himself! **Hosea 11:4; John 12:32**
- Jesus gave His life as a ransom for ours. He experienced rejection so that we could be accepted again as a part of Father’s family! **Isa. 53:3**

True Identity – Accepted, Loved, Right, and Secure

3. You are **acceptable** in Father's eyes now!
 - Acceptable *means to be received with pleasure* in Webster's dictionary.
 - You are acceptable through Jesus Christ, chosen by God and precious! **1 Peter 2:4**
 - **Col. 1:19** says how *"it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell."* *"Pleased"* in the Greek means **to think well of, approved, think good, take pleasure, be acceptable, and set affection towards someone.** In **Col. 2:10** it says, *"You are complete in Him."* Thus all this applies to you!
 - **Col.1:22** you are no longer enemies of God and are *"**holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight.**"*
 - Those words describe how Father sees you! Begin to see yourself as He does.
 - **Eph. 1:6** says *"He made us **accepted** in the Beloved."* **Made us** is past tense which means it is going on now too! Rejoice that He accepts you right now!
 - It is all based on what Jesus did, not what we do. Can you rest in who you are - **being accepted, holy, blameless, and above reproach?**

Your True Identity – Loved - the Beloved

1. Over and over the Word says that **He loved us first** and sent His Son to show us that love and then He proved His love by having Jesus die in our place.
 - Read these verses putting in your name and let His love for you touch your heart. **John 3:16-17; Rom. 5:8; Eph. 2:4; 1 John 4:10 & 19**
 - Jesus also helped His disciples to understand that as they loved Him, they would also *"be loved by My Father."* **John 14:21**
 - The deep love relationship that Jesus had with His Father allowed Him to love all those that came to Him in the same way. He wants us to abide or live at home in that love every day. **John 15:9**
 - **John 17:23 & 26** speak of **Father loving us as much as He loves Jesus** and then Jesus prayed for that love to be in us and Him to be in us! We were made to get *our full identity as being loved and being containers to show forth His love to others!*
2. Throughout the New Testament letters the writers referred to the churches and those that were a part of Father's family as the **"beloved."**
 - *"Beloved"* in Greek means **dearly, well beloved, loved in a moral or social sense.**
 - Paul often addresses those he is writing to as *"my beloved."* Despite what the first believers were experiencing he reminded them of how much they were loved!
 - **Col. 3:12** says you are *"the elect of God, holy, and beloved."* Are you living like who you really are?
 - Is your identity in being the *"beloved of the Lord?"* **1 Cor. 15:58; Phil 4:1; 2 Thes. 2:13**
 - **James 1:1-19** speaks of them being *"my beloved brethren"* who were not to be deceived but to know that *"Every good and perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights."* James wanted all to know about all the good things Father has for His children.

True Identity – Accepted, Loved, Right, and Secure

3. When we become **confident of His love** for us it will allow us to overcome in life.
 - **Rom. 8:37-39** - We are to be more than conquerors through Him who loves us. We must also know that nothing can separate us from His love.
 - **1 John 4:4** – *“You are of God (Love) little children and have overcome them because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”* Love never fails!

Your True Identity – Right or Righteous

1. From the foundation of the world Father planned to send His Son to make us right with Him through Jesus’ blood.
 - **1 Pet.1: 19** says you are made right with Father through the precious blood of Christ.
 - Father saw His Son as the Lamb slain for us even before the Fall. **Rev. 13:8**
 - He has always wanted us to know *“I’ll never forget you. I’ve wiped the slate of all your wrongdoings. There’s nothing left of your sins. Come back to Me, come back. I’ve redeemed you.”* **Isa. 44:22** Message
2. Jesus is the One who makes us right with Father. **2 Cor. 5:21** (The Message) says, *“God put the wrong on Him who never did anything wrong so we could be put right with God.”*
 - By His blood He took all that separated us from Father and obtained our eternal redemption. **Heb. 9:12**
 - You have been *“justified freely by His grace”* through what Jesus did. **Rom. 3:24**
 - *Justified* in the Greek means to render innocent, just, free, and righteous. Another way of looking at justified is *“just as if I’d never sinned!”*
 - **Rom. 4:6-8** describes how *“blessed is the man whose sins are covered and to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works”*. This person rests in what Jesus did rather than trying to earn his rightness before God.
 - Father wants you to *no longer have a consciousness of sins!* Then you will be able to enter into a personal relationship with Him! **Heb. 10:2**
3. **Heb. 12:23** lets you know that He now sees you as a *just man made perfect!* You can come close and have a relationship with Him because there is nothing between you and Him!

Your True Identity – Secure in Him

1. Our Father God is always watching over us to keep us safe and allow us to feel secure.
 - He has always kept His people *“as the apple of His eye.”* **Deut. 32:10**
 - Father has **set His heart on you and visits you every morning.** **Job 7:17** Thus there is One who is always close and desires to be in relationship with you.
 - **Ex. 19:4** shows us His concern for your safety and His desire to keep you close. *“I bore you on eagle’s wings and brought you to Myself.”*
 - All the way through **Psalm 121** He speaks of *“never slumbering or sleeping but being there to preserve you.”*

True Identity – Accepted, Loved, Right, and Secure

2. Father watches over you and delights in doing this. It is not a burden but a joy!
- **Proverbs 15:3** says *“The eyes of the Lord are in every place keeping watch on the evil and the good.”*
 - He delights in you and wants to help. **Ps. 18:19**
 - **Zephaniah 3:17** gives you a picture of how excited Father gets about you! *“The LORD your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.”*
 - May these words sink deep into your heart so that you can rest in who you really are – May your true identity be: **You are accepted, loved, right and secure by your Father!**