

## Lesson 4A – True Identity – Chosen, Valuable, Precious, & Blessed

"Who am I?" relates to your **identity**. It is your perception of you. The primary issue in dealing with identity is **value or worth**.

- When you *know who you are, then you know how you are to live* both within yourself and towards others around you.
- The adults in your life are the ones that have imparted and influenced the images you have developed deep inside you about who you are and thus your value or worth.
- Jesus asked His disciples "Who am I?" because He knew their revelation of Him would shape their relationship with Him.
- Father wants to cleanse your heart of any wrong images so you can walk in your *true identity – knowing who He is and thus knowing who you are!*
- When others know your real identity, it can even affect how they interact with you.

**True identity is made up of who we are on the earth and how we are known in heaven!**

1. **Personality** is defined as the visible aspects of one's character as it impresses other people.

- It is the integrated organization of soul and body and includes the emotional, psychological, intellectual, and physical attributes.
- Your personality is shaped by your upbringing and training which leads to certain behaviors that are either positive or negative.
- You were never meant to live only from how you or others see you on this earth.

2. You are **meant to live from how Father sees you "in Christ!"** Graham Cooke calls this your **persona** or how you are already seen in heaven.

- Jesus read Isaiah 61 and aligned Himself with His Father's vision for His life on the earth.
- You are to live each day "in Christ." Father wants to be seen in and through your life.
- Your persona is who you are "in Christ" and who you are becoming in Him. You need to see others that way also.
- It is time to *see yourself and others by how each person is seen in heaven and remind each other of their true identity*. "Stop that! That's not who you are anymore!" Because of "who you are in Christ," you can no longer do certain things that you used to do.

3. Father desires that your personality come into alignment with your identity in heaven.

- Father knows your true identity in heaven and He loves to tell you who you are! He wants to show you new images of yourself and call you up to a higher place in the Spirit!
- Many times Father God comes to us with a task to be done, but rather than seeing His bigness and ability in us, we meet Him in our personality and not our "persona." We see only all our shortcomings and weaknesses which leads us to make excuses.
  - Any place you feel inadequate, He wants you to be joyfully vulnerable, depending on Him. Your weaknesses become stepping stones for Him.
  - **Gideon** is a good example of how he needed reassurance from God before he could press through his negative personality and see himself as God did. Once Gideon saw himself as "*a mighty man of valor*," he could receive God's provision and victory.
  - As you see and step into your new identity in Christ, the resources will be there to do it.

## Chosen, Valuable, Precious and Blessed

- **Start practicing who you are**, like doctors practice medicine. It may feel strange at first, but stay with it. It may feel like an act, but you are not pretending. You are really practicing who you already are in heaven. Practice Father's new thoughts, new language, new mind-set, and heaven's new perspective. It will lead you to new actions! See yourself being just like Jesus!

### Living in Father's Ways and from Heaven's Truth

1. In recent generations, our culture has systematically eliminated God's ways.
  - Today many young people and children have not been to church or read the Bible.
  - They are perishing because they have no knowledge of God or have rejected His Word. **Hos. 4:6**
  - Many people have decided they don't have to think, behave, or do things "the Bible way" any more. Many have no idea what "the Bible way" is and feel they can decide for themselves what to think and how to live. **Isa. 53:6**
2. **True life and His goodness** will only be found by knowing and following God's ways.
  - **Jer. 6:13-16** speaks of the superficial healing that many think is good enough, but the Lord encourages us to *"Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls..."*
  - Father knows His ways will bring good things into your life, but it is your choice. Check out these verses: **Deut. 28:9-10, Ps. 128:1, Prov. 8:32, 16:2 & 7; Hag. 1:5; Heb. 3:10**
  - We can learn Father's ways by observing the way other godly men and women are living and follow in their footsteps. **Ps. 103:7; John 14:6; 1 Cor. 4:17**
  - Be willing to trust, lean on and look to Him, and He will direct your paths to His good way. **Prov. 3:5-6**
3. Man's ideas, thoughts and ways continue to change with each new generation; **only God's thoughts and ways are unchanging and remain the same.**
  - God says, *"My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways... My ways are higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."* **Isa. 55:8-12** Do you think Father knows best?
  - God's word is truth and life. **John 17:17, 6:63** Are you willing to make it your final authority?
  - If you stay in His word, you will know the truth and the truth will make you free! If you don't believe and stand on what Father's Word says, you will end up believing the father of lies. **John 8:31-47**
  - **Jesus is the truth** and He came to show you who the Father is and who you are in Him! Let His truth sink into your heart so you can rest in your true identity! **John 1:14; 14:6**

### True Identity – Chosen to be part of His family

1. **2 Thes. 2:13** says, *"God chose you from the beginning for salvation"* and the Message says, *"God picked you out as His from the very start."* He has always wanted you and planned for you to be a part of His family. **Chosen** means to take for oneself, preferred. That is who you are!

## Chosen, Valuable, Precious and Blessed

2. You have a special place in Him! Father "**chose us in Him** before the foundation of the world ... **having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself.**" **Eph. 1:4-5**

- Let that paint a picture of how important you are to Father!
- You have been made holy and have the same Father. Jesus is not ashamed of you. **Heb. 2:11** (Message) says, "*Jesus doesn't hesitate to treat them as family.*"
- Your identity is to come from being "in Him" and being a part of the family. **1 John 4:17** says, "*As He is so are we in this world.*"

3. "*For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to Him – and all along He knew who would – should become like His Son, so that His Son would be the First, with many brothers.*" **Rom. 8:29** (Living Bible) Father always planned for you to be a member of His big family.

### True Identity – Valuable and Precious

What do most people consider as being valuable or precious? Usually they are things that are in short supply such as gold, diamonds, other gems, and even oil as man views it as being scarce. Father says that *each of His creation is a special treasure to Him. You are valuable and precious in Father's eyes!*

1. Father God sees His people as a treasured possession.

- From the beginning Father desired to have the people as a "peculiar treasure to me above all the people." **Peculiar treasure** in the Hebrew means *jewel, special, wealth shut up*. Father saw us as having *great worth*, to be desired. **Ex. 19:5**
- **Ps. 135:4** speaks of Israel being His special treasure or prized possession. You are grafted into the family by Jesus; thus you are also of great value!

2. Jesus spoke of your value and worth; then He demonstrated your value by laying down His life for you!

- He spoke of your value being much greater than other parts of His creation. **Matt. 10:31**
- He never saw one person having less value; even the lowest in society had value in His eyes. **Luke 8:27; Luke 19:1-7; John 4:7-18**
- Jesus gave His life so that each person could have eternal life and no one can snatch us from His hand. **John 3:16-17; John 10:28-29; Rom 5:8; 1 John 4:10** (see Message too)

3. **Precious** means *costly, very valuable, of great price, highly esteemed*. In the Greek *precious* also means *dear*, which sounds like a warm expression of the heart. Do you realize you are precious in Father's eyes?

- **1 Peter 2:4, 9** states who you are – "*a living stone, rejected (disapproved) by men, but chosen by God and precious... His own special people.*" Who are you going to believe, Father or men?
- Jesus shed His precious blood so that you may be redeemed! You are of great worth! **1 Peter 1:18-19; Ps. 49:8, Heb. 10:19**

## True Identity – Blessed by Your Father

1. Being blessed and living in the blessings of Father is how He planned for you to live!
  - After Father created Adam and Eve, He **spoke a blessing over them**. He only planned for them to experience increase of everything good. **Gen. 1:22, 28**
  - **Barak** is the Hebrew word for **ble**ss. It means bless abundantly, salute, praise. The verb **baruch** means to empower to prosper. **Bless** in Greek is **eulogeo** which means speak well, prosper, bless. You have an extravagant Father who wants only good for you!
  - You are on His mind and His will is to bless you. **Ps. 115:12-15**
  - The blessing of the Lord makes you rich and He adds no sorrow to it. **Prov. 10:22**
  - According to **Eph. 1:3** your Father God *"has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ."* It is already yours! You are the blessed of the Lord now! So don't try to get blessings on your own. Walk in a close loving relationship with your Father and expect blessings to follow you!
  
2. Abraham believed God's promises and walked in Father's blessing. In **Gen. 12:2-3** He said, *"I will bless you ...you will be a blessing, I will bless those who bless you and I will curse those who curse you; and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."*
  - Father will bless others just because one of His children was living with them. **Gen. 30:27; Gen. 39:5, 1 Kings 17:9-16**
  - When Father brought His people out of Egypt after 400 years of slavery, He brought them out with silver, gold, and clothing. They were blessed. **Ex. 11:2; Ex. 12:35-36**
  - Father also took care of them for 40 years in the wilderness and they lacked nothing. **Deut. 2:7** No matter what you face Father is able to take care of you, just trust Him!
  - *"You shall be blessed above all peoples!"* **Deut. 7:14** Your Father wants you to look good as you are a reflection of Him to others. Live blessed and let others know who your Father is!
  
3. **Jesus came to remove the curse of the law** and allow us to **live as the blessed of the Lord!**
  - **Deut. 28** contrasts the blessings when they did what the Word says or the curses if they didn't. However, no man could do everything right, and thus they experienced the curse.
  - Jesus Christ fulfilled the Law and redeemed us from the curse of the law by taking all our sin on Himself on the cross. Father no longer sees any sin on you, so you are free to receive His blessings. **Gal. 3:10-14; Rom. 4:7-8; Acts 3:26**
  - Jesus made the way for you to live in all the blessings that Father prepared for His man in the beginning in the garden. The blessing is where Father wants you to live every day!
  
4. Living as the blessed and walking in His blessing has other benefits too.
  - **Ps. 29:11** – He will **bless** His people **with peace**.
  - **Ps. 84:5-7** – The Lord will **bless** you **with strength** *when your heart is set on Him*.
  
5. Your Father has extended an invitation to you, will you accept it today? **Matt. 25:34** says, *"Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."*