

IDENTITY

WHO GOD SAYS YOU ARE.



Image of God: NT Foundations

Colossians 3:1-11

Three Contemporary Assumptions

Post-modern/relativism: no moral absolutes

Expressive Individualism: meaning and purpose attained by following inward passions/desires

Identity politics: individual identity discovered through isolating and prioritising a single /group of identity markers over others.







10 Key Identity Markers

Your race, ethnicity, culture and nationality

Your gender and sexuality

Your physical and mental capacity

Your memories

Your family of origin

Your age

Your relationships

Your occupation

Your possessions

Your religion, convictions, values

Expressive Individualism	Satan's Temptation
Happiness is realising your full potential	God wants to keep your eyes closed and stop you from realising your full potential.
Personal autonomy is the path to a meaningful life	Independence from God is the path to life
Follow your heart you will find your true self	Look how good the fruit is and how it will help you gain knowledge
Authentic living comes through breaking with tradition/religion/other's opinions	Shutting your ears to God is the key to authentic living.
You determine who you really are	You can become like God and your eyes will be open to discovering your true self.

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared. . .

- 1 Timothy 4:1-3.

The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

— Genesis 6:5

“I am a Jekyll and Hyde, a mixed-up kid, having both dignity, because I was created and have been recreated in the image of God, and depravity, because I still have a fallen and rebellious nature. I am both noble and ignoble, beautiful and ugly, good and bad upright and twisted, image and child of God, and yet sometimes yielding obsequious homage to the devil from whose clutches Christ has rescued me. My true self is what I am by creation, which Christ came to redeem. My false self is what I am by the Fall, which Christ came to destroy.”

— John Stott, *The Cross of Christ*, p285

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

— Col 3:1-4

“You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

— Mark 1:11.

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Two Aspects of Christ on the Cross

Substitute: *One who acts in place of another in such a way as to render the other's action unnecessary.*

Representative: *One who acts on behalf of another in such a way as to involve the other in his action.*

The notion of being in union with Jesus Christ, the Son of God, draws together several threads of a biblical theology of personal identity. If in Adam we lost our status as God's children and damaged the image of God, in Christ we are being conformed to and renewed in the image of God's Son (Rom 8:29; Col 3:10). Indeed it is Christ's purpose "to create in himself one new humanity (Eph. 2:15).

— Brian Rosner, "Known By God", 147.

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. 11 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

— Col 3:5-11

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

— Mark 8:34-36

Colossians 3:1-11

Our Distorted image vs. Jesus the true Image of God.

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In Christ: our union with Christ on the cross means the power of sin in us has been destroyed.

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Following Jesus is a life of denying our false self and affirming our true self.

