

TEACHINGS AS I GO PART 2

IDENTIFIED BY GOD

Knowing Who We Are, Where We Belong, and How Our Identity Affects Others

Opening: Let Us Go Forward

As we continue moving forward, I want to use a simple object lesson to help us understand an important spiritual truth:

We need to know who we are.

One day, while walking through a clothing store, I noticed a tag lying on the floor. I picked it up and began to think about its purpose.

The tag was designed to **identify something**.

It contained information that helped identify what it belonged to, where it belonged, and how it related to other things in the store.

The interesting thing was that I could not immediately identify what the tag belonged to.

Why?

I was not familiar with that particular store or its procedures.

But if I had found a tag in a grocery store, I probably would have recognized its purpose immediately because I was familiar with the grocery industry.

1. Familiarity Helps Us Recognize Identity

The more familiar we become with something, the easier it becomes to recognize and understand it.

This is true spiritually.

The more familiar we become with God's Word, the more we discover who God says we are.

Hebrews 2:1 reminds us of the importance of paying close attention to what we have heard.

God's Word gives us the information necessary to identify ourselves correctly.

2. The Tag Identifies More Than Itself

A tag does not exist merely to identify the tag.

It identifies **something else**.

It tells us what the tag corresponds to and where it belongs.

That gives us an important spiritual picture:

God's Word identifies believers not only for their own sake, but also for the sake of others.

We are like that tag.

If I cannot identify the tag I am holding, it may not get to the place where it belongs. That can affect the items in the store that correspond to it.

Likewise:

If we cannot identify who we are, we may not be where we should be—and that can affect the people around us.

Our identity matters.

Our position matters.

Our responsibilities matter.

And our identity affects others.

3. Knowing Who We Are Helps Us Know Where We Belong

Imagine that I am identified at work as the fourth man in a particular management position.

I have a certain shirt, form, procedure, and responsibility associated with that position.

When I know who I am and what my responsibilities are, I know what I am supposed to do.

That knowledge also helps other people.

They understand how they relate to me and how they should respond to my position.

The same principle applies spiritually.

If I do not know who I am, I may not know what I am supposed to do.

For example, if I do not know that I am a father and grandfather, that lack of identification can hinder my responsibilities toward my children and grandchildren.

Identity helps establish responsibility.

4. John the Baptist Knew Who He Was

John the Baptist gives us an excellent biblical example.

When people asked him, **“Who are you?”**, he knew what Scripture said about him.

John 1:19–23 tells us that he did not claim to be Christ, Elijah, or the prophet.

Instead, he identified himself according to what God had said:

“I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord.’”

He knew his identity because he knew the Scripture.

Isaiah 40:3 had already identified the role he would fulfill.

John understood:

Who I am determines what I am here to do.

5. Wrong Identity Produces Wrong Position

Here is an important statement:

Wrong conclusions about our identity can place us in a wrong position, and that will affect those around us.

This applies in churches, families, workplaces, and other areas of life.

If someone believes he is a supervisor when he is not, he may begin functioning outside his proper position.

If someone does not understand his responsibility, others may be affected.

Spiritually, the same thing happens.

If we do not know what God says about us, other voices may attempt to identify us.

The people questioning John were essentially asking:

“Are you Elijah?”

“Are you the prophet?”

They were trying to determine his identity.

John did not allow other people to define him.

He knew what God's Word said about him.

6. God Has Identified Us

God's Word gives us clear information about our identity.

2 Corinthians 6:17–18 says:

“I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”

That is identification!

God identifies us as His sons and daughters.

If we are not familiar with God's Word, someone else can make false statements about who we are.

But when we know what God has said, His Word becomes our standard.

Knowing our identification protects us from false identification.

7. Water Baptism and Our Identification

The teaching then takes us to another important identification point: **water baptism.**

Colossians 2:11–12 speaks about being “in Him” and being buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him through faith in the working of God.

The phrase “**in Him**” is significant.

How do we get into Christ?

The teaching points us to water baptism.

Romans 6:3 says:

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?”

Galatians 3:26–27 says:

“For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

Water baptism therefore becomes part of this identification teaching.

We have been identified with Christ.

8. The Holy Spirit Bears Witness

Our identification does not stop with an outward action.

Romans 8:16 says:

“It is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”

We are children of God.

Therefore, an important question follows:

If I know who I am, how should I live?

9. Identity Must Become Action

Knowing our identity should produce corresponding action.

It is possible to say:

“I am a child of God.”

But if there is no corresponding action, we are not gaining the experience of functioning according to that identity.

Think about a mechanic.

If someone says, “I am a mechanic,” but never works on anything, he does not gain the experience of functioning as a mechanic simply by saying the words.

The same principle applies to a doctor, lawyer, manager, parent, or any other role.

Speaking and doing belong together.

Therefore:

We must put action to who we are.

If I am a child of God, I should learn how a child of God lives.

10. Accepting Ourselves and Growing in Maturity

As I continued thinking about this object lesson, another character quality became apparent:

Tolerance vs. Prejudice

Tolerance, as used in this teaching, involves accepting others as unique expressions of specific character qualities in varying degrees of maturity—**without compromising God's Word.**

Ephesians 4:1–2 speaks of walking worthy of our calling with humility, meekness, patience, and **forbearance** toward one another in love.

Forbearance carries the idea of putting up with one another.

That includes recognizing that people are not all at the same level of maturity.

11. We Must Accept Who God Made Us to Be

If God has identified me as His son, I need to accept that identity.

I also need to recognize that I am not perfect.

Accepting myself does **not** mean remaining in my deficiencies.

It means recognizing where I am while continuing to move forward and mature.

Acceptance is not permission to remain immature.

Instead:

Accept who God made you to be.

Recognize where you are.

Then keep growing.

We are uniquely made in God's image, and we should continue developing spiritually.

12. Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

Jesus said in Matthew 22:37–39:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

And:

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Notice something important:

We are commanded to love our neighbor **as ourselves**.

Therefore, if we have a distorted view of ourselves, it can affect the way we relate to others.

If we do not accept ourselves properly, it can interfere with how we love our neighbor.

Our identification process affects more than us.

It affects the people around us.

THE CENTRAL LESSON

The simple tag on the floor became a powerful reminder:

A tag identifies something.

God's Word identifies us.

The tag tells an item where it belongs.

God's Word helps us understand where we belong.

The tag helps establish relationship and order within the store.

Our identity helps establish our relationship and responsibilities within the body of Christ.

Remember These Five Statements

1. **Know who you are.**
2. **Know where you belong.**
3. **Know what God has called you to do.**
4. **Put action to your identity.**
5. **Understand that your identity affects others.**

Closing Thought

We have been placed and identified according to God's Word.

The world may try to tell us who we are.

Other people may try to define us.

Circumstances may try to redefine us.

But the question remains:

Who does God say I am?

That is the identification we must become familiar with.

The more familiar we become with God's Word, the more clearly we can recognize who God says we are—and the more accurately we can live, serve, and affect the people around us.

Key Statement

When I know who God says I am, I can know where I belong, understand what I am responsible for, and live in a way that positively affects others.

[Click here.](#) Main resource.

Teachings As I Go

Part 2

IDENTIFIED BY GOD

Knowing Who We Are, Where We Belong, and How Our Identity Affects Others

1 The Object Lesson — A Tag



- While walking in a clothing store, I noticed a tag on the floor.
- The tag was used to identify something.
- It had information printed on it to help with the identification process.
- I could not tell what it identified because I was not familiar with the store or its procedures.
- If it was a tag in a grocery store, I could probably identify it because I have been in the grocery industry for 28 years.

2 What the Tag Teaches Us

- A tag does not only identify itself; it identifies something else.
- It tells us what it corresponds to and where it belongs.
- If we cannot identify the tag, it will not be where it should be, and that will affect other items in the store.
- The same is true for us.

God's Word identifies believers not only for their own sake, but also for the sake of others.

If we cannot identify who we are, we may not be where we should be—and that will affect the people around us.

3 Identity Establishes Responsibilities

- Knowing my identification at work (management position) helps me know my responsibilities for the sake of others.
- It also helps others identify themselves, because they know and see themselves under authority.
- If I do not know that I am a father and grandfather, it hinders my responsibilities and affects my children and grandchildren.
- Identity helps establish responsibility.



4 John the Baptist Knew Who He Was



- When people asked him, "Who are you?" he knew what Scripture said about him.
- He did not claim to be Christ, Elijah, or the prophet.
- Instead, he identified himself according to God's Word.

John 1:19-23 (RSV)

"I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

Isaiah 40:3 (RSV)

"A voice cries: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'"

5 Wrong Identity Produces Wrong Position

- Wrong conclusions about our identity can place us in a wrong position, and that will affect those around us.
- If we do not know what our identity is, the devil and others will try to identify us by what they say. (They tried to do this with John the Baptist — "Are you Elijah?" "Are you the prophet?")

We must know what God says about us, not what others say about us.

6 God Has Identified Us

- God's Word gives us clear information about our identity.

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 (AMP)

¹⁷ So, come out from among [unbelievers], and separate yourselves from them, says the Lord...

¹⁸ And I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.

- We are God's sons and daughters.
- Knowing our identification protects us from false statements.
- If we are not familiar with God's Word, someone could say that we are "worms in the dirt."

7 Water Baptism and Our Identification



We are identified with Christ through water baptism.

Colossians 2:11-12 (AMP)

"In Him you were also circumcised... buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him..."

Romans 6:3 (NKJV)

"All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death."

Galatians 3:26-27 (NKJV)

"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

8 The Holy Spirit Bears Witness



Romans 8:16 (NKJV)

"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."

- We are children of God.
- If I know who I am, how should I live?
- Knowing our identity should produce corresponding action.

9 Identity Must Become Action

- It is possible to say, "I am a child of God," but without action, we do not gain the experience of functioning as a child of God.
- A mechanic does not gain experience simply by saying, "I am a mechanic" — he must work on something.
- The same is true for us.

We must put action to who we are. If I am a child of God, I should learn how a child of God lives.

10 Tolerance vs. Prejudice

- Tolerance is accepting others as unique expressions of specific character qualities in varying degrees of maturity — without compromising God's Word.
- Ephesians 4:1-2 (NKJV) — walk worthy of our calling with humility, meekness, patience, and forbearance toward one another in love.
- We must accept who God made us to be.
- Acceptance is not permission to remain immature.
- Accept who God made you to be, recognize where you are, and keep growing.

11 Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

Matthew 22:37-39 (NKJV)

³⁷ "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

³⁸ ³⁹ "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

- If we have a distorted view of ourselves, it can affect the way we relate to others.
- Our identification affects more than us. It affects the people around us.

12 Key Takeaways

- 1 Know who you are.
- 2 Know where you belong.
- 3 Know what God has called you to do.
- 4 Put action to your identity.
- 5 Understand that your identity affects others.

