

## Our Identity

**Our identity is determined by the way we define value or measure success.** “Who am I? How do I become successful?” The issue of our function (ministry) is important but secondary to this. **Our primary identity (value/success) is found in who we are in relationship to God.** ([Jeremiah 31:33-34](#) (ESV) <sup>(33)</sup>) But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

<sup>(34)</sup> And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

They will all know me says the Lord, **The value of an item can be determined by the price one is prepared to pay for something.**

**We find our identity or success in being desired by God and in loving Him instead of seeking our primary value in how much we accomplish or the impact we make.** We are most successful because we are desired by God and love Him. **We no longer need to fear being a failure.** Our primary identity is not what we do with our hands but who we ARE to Him and what we pursue with our hearts. Many agree with lies about what success is and thus, feel like a failure and live aimlessly. They focus mostly on externals (what they do and possess) instead of internals (who they are). They view their life in context to their struggle and lack of impact.

Jesus corrected those who put their ministry before loving God. "You have labored for My name...4 I have this against you, you have left your first love. 5 Remember from where you have fallen; repent or I will...remove your lampstand. (Rev 2:3-5)

[Luke 10:38-42](#) (ESV) <sup>(38)</sup> Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house.

<sup>(39)</sup> And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to his teaching.

<sup>(40)</sup> But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.”

<sup>(41)</sup> But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things,

<sup>(42)</sup> but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.”

### Simple Devotion:

[2 Corinthians 11:2-4](#) (MSG) <sup>(2)</sup> The thing that has me so upset is that I care about you so much—this is the passion of God burning inside me! I promised your hand in marriage to Christ, presented you as a pure virgin to her husband.

<sup>(3)</sup> And now I'm afraid that exactly as the Snake seduced Eve with his smooth patter, you are being lured away from the simple purity of your love for Christ.

<sup>(4)</sup> It seems that if someone shows up preaching quite another Jesus than we preached—different spirit, different message—you put up with him quite nicely.

GS: Adam & Eve's sin wasn't that they ate an apple, but rather **they succumbed to the temptation that God wasn't good, and that He was technically 'holding out' on them.** They only saw **the one thing they never had and lost sight of everything they possessed.** The root of the temptation was that **the**

**devil cast suspicion over the Word**, what God had said. Genesis 3:1 (ESV) Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, **“Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” He then subtly moves onto the issue of their identity**....they were already made in God's image, just like God, children of God, a 'chip off the old block' so to speak, but the enemy said...Genesis 3:5 (ESV) For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God**, knowing good and evil.” Doubt over God's Goodness and what God had said, coupled with not realizing their true identity cost humanity severely and ultimately forced the hand of a loving Father to send His Son to Ransom and Redeem. The issue of our identity is a real big deal!

The religious spirit today is still at work against the church by tempting the church into being 'godly' by excercising and growing in their knowledge of good and evil. The religious spirit will turn the Bible from being a love letter of relationship into a text book of good behaviour.