

MY IDENTITY AS A LEADER



VIDEO SCRIPT - LET'S TALK ABOUT IDENTITY

It is important we develop a biblical framework around our identity, as it impacts on the spiritual health and role of any Christian leader.

The Bible is full of identity statements and terminology.

Words like creature, Creator, male, female, child, parents, son, daughter, Son of God, children of God, Master, disciple, body of Christ, strangers and aliens, and many more. Thinking about identity and the identities that we assign to ourselves is significant.

We are wired by God to be constant interpreters. Always seeking to translate and understand who God is and who we are. We are constantly interpreting between right and wrong, meaning and purpose. Interpreting relationships, and motivations.

How we interpret these things shape the way we see, think, choose, act, and speak. This means that none of us, from the most influential leader down to the seemingly least influential follower, responds to life based on the pure facts. We are constantly interpreting.

We all have a deep desire to make sense out of life. All this was wired inside us by God so that he would live at the centre of the way we understand ourselves, understand life, and make sense out of our circumstances.

God, after creating Adam and Eve, began to talk to them. Without God, they would not have known how to make proper sense out of life. God gave them the tools to make right interpretations of life on the ground.

For example, as creatures, we have been created by someone. That someone had a purpose in mind for making us. Understanding that purpose is essential for me to operate properly.

In God's perfect plan, He made us in His image, man and woman. This is how we are meant to know ourselves. This is what helps us understand our meaning and purpose.

This vertical identity is to give us guidance for our daily living and be a protective boundary around our hearts.

The fall saw us reject our identity as creatures of the Creator God and buying into an identity that did not have God at the centre. Self.

The result, human identity has become a mass of confusion, and a battleground for spiritual war.

Since the fall, people, by nature, look horizontally for what they were designed to find vertically. They ask people, places, and things to do for them what only identity in Christ can do.

Wherever you look for identity will then exercise a control over your heart and direct the way you live your life.

Things that were never meant to be sources of human identity become just that.

A job, marriage, a ministry role, and physical appearance are often ways we look for our identity horizontally. These will always be disappointing and unfulfilling.

This is why as a Christian leader, knowing that our identity is found in Christ is what is to shape and show us the way we think about and approach our everyday lives. Approach our responsibilities as leaders.

Check out a few New Testament examples:

In Christ...

- We are new creations (2 Cor. 5:17).
- We are chosen, royalty, holy, belonging to God (1 Peter 2:9)
- We now live a life gained by Christ. (Gal. 2:20)
- We are friends of God (John 15:15).
- We are children of God (John 1:12).
- We are citizens of heaven (Phil. 3:20).
- We are the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27).
- We are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

This is our identity.

Our identity in Christ is how we are to make sense of who we are and what we are supposed to be doing.

If we put our identity in anything else, it leads to idolatry.

Every Christian leader is doing his or her ministry out of some sense of identity.

Is our identity as a Christian leader increasingly found in our vertical identity in Christ, or a horizontal identity found in other titles, roles, or experiences?

Christian leadership is to be built on an ever-increasing knowledge and experience of our identity in Christ, not some form of identity in ministry.

A Christian leader, knowing that our identity is found in Christ, sees this shape us and show us the way we think about and approach our everyday lives and ministry responsibilities.