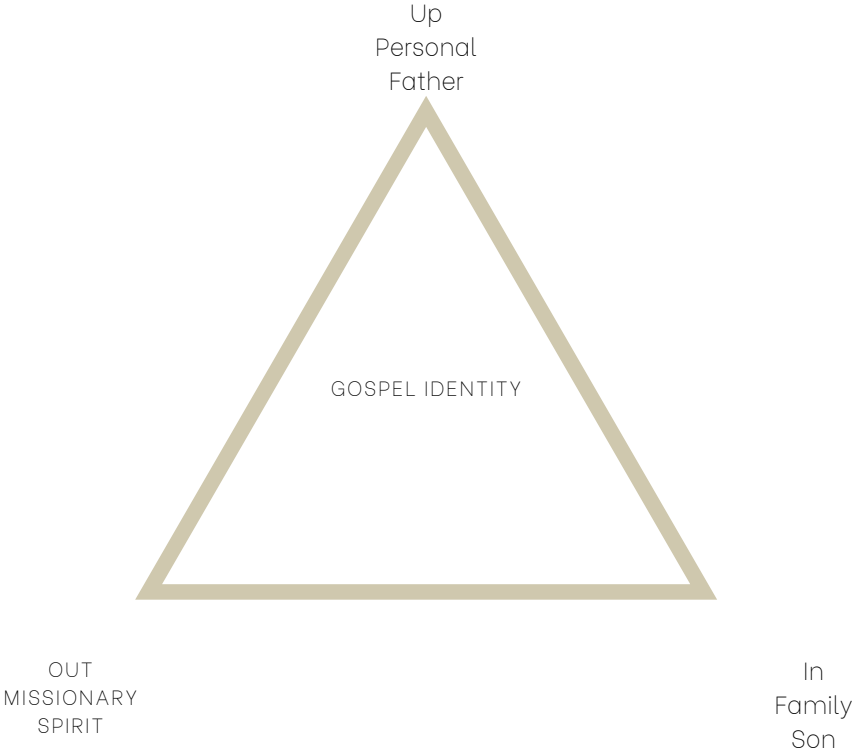


Gospel Identity
Personal Identity
How we relate to God



Gospel Identity: Personal

As followers of Jesus, knowing who we are in Christ is essential! We call this, *Gospel Identity*. In these sessions we will explore our personal, family, and missionary identity as revealed in the Gospel.



What is identity?

Identity is who we are: The knowledge of what makes you, you. Who we believe ourselves to be is crucial to all of life, because it shapes who we are, why we do what we do and how we live.

I·den·ti·ty - (n) the fact of being; who a person is

Write a few sentences describing your identity. Who do you believe yourself to be?

Where do we get our sense of identity?

There are different places we can find our sense of identity.

1. The world and society
2. Our upbringing.
3. The Word of God.

Identity from the world and society:

- *I am what I do.* Sense of identity comes from performance and achievements. For example, “I am a carpenter”; “I used to be a carpenter but got let go.” “I am the top salesman in the company.” “I am a failure and have made too many mistakes.”
- *I am what I experience or feel.* Sense of identity comes from day-to-day experiences. For example, “I am depressed.” “I am happy.” “I am an introvert.” “I was happy then, but ever since _____ I have been _____.”
- *I am who others think I am.* Sense of identity from labels placed on them by others.
- *I am how I look.* Sense of identity from outward appearance.
- *I am who my family has always been.* Sense of identity from patterns that have run in a family. For example, “I’ll never go to college because my parents didn’t.”

Question: Can you identify with any of these examples? Explain why.



Identity in Christ:

As disciples of Jesus we get our sense of identity from Him. So, let's begin by discovering more of our upward identity in Christ. We'll start with four questions that will help us along the journey of understanding the gospel and the ways in which our life is affected by these truths.

1. Who is Jesus?

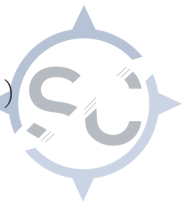
God in the flesh (John 1)
The Messiah (Matthew 16:16-17)
The Way, the Truth, the Life (John 14)
The Light (John 1)
Son of God (1 John 4:9)
Creator of all things (Colossians 1:16)
Head of the body, the Church (Colossians 1:18)

2. What has he done? (Through his life, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension)

Lived in perfect obedience to God without sin under the law (Galatians 4:4)
Died for the sins of the world (John 3:16)
Became sin on our behalf (2 Corinthians 5:21a)
Raised (Luke 20:19-23)
Raised for our justification (Romans 4:25)
Died for the ungodly (Romans 5:6)
Bore our sickness (Isaiah 53:4)
Reconciling all things to himself through the Cross (Colossians 1:20)

3. Who am I? (Because of who he is, and what he has done)

The righteousness of God in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
Sons and daughters of God (Galatians 4:4-8)
Completely forgiven (Colossians 2:13-15)
Loved unconditionally | not based on performance (Romans 8:37-39)
A part of the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4)
Ministers of God's reconciliation | missionaries (2 Corinthians 5, Matthew 28)
Holy, blameless and above reproach. (Colossians 1:22)



4. What do I do? (In light of the first three questions)

I live righteously (2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 6:15-19)

I live with the knowledge that I am accepted by God (Romans 8:37-39)

I live boldly (Proverbs 28:1)

Make disciples who make disciples (Matthew 28)

I live with no condemnation (Romans 8:1)

I live in peace with God (Romans 5:1)

Live as family (Galatians 4:4-8, Acts 2-4)

Personal Reflection

Where do you usually get your sense of identity? Something you do, someone you love, a circumstance or experience?

To help you see yourself how God sees you, write a few sentences about yourself based on the truths you have discovered today.

Application

Throughout your week, when you are tempted to get your identity from something other than Jesus begin to apply the truths from “Who am I?” We need constant reminders of our Gospel Identity. Endeavor to use these truths to overcome the everyday challenges in our lives.

Find a friend to whom you can be accountable and;

1. Ask them to help you see the truth of God’s Word exhibited in your life and where His truth is more hidden or missing.
2. Take yourselves to an antique store or a music store and pick out items or albums that depict your own identities in Christ.

