

# WONDERFUL

*The Truth  
About Who I Am*



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*Hello, friend!*

If someone asked you to describe yourself, what would you say? Would you answer with your name, age, where you live? Maybe you thought of your favorite sport or an instrument you play.

What about who Jesus made you to be? Your identity in Christ. Did that come to mind? We hope so. But the truth is this world doesn't really care about that. Over and over we're told what we should look like, who we should be, and how we should spend our time and money. Our identity—who we are—has become what we are on the outside, right here and right now, instead of who we are on the inside, for eternity.

Well, we're here to turn the focus of identity right back where it belongs: on your heart and soul and mind, reflecting the glory of the very One who made you. You are His, you know. And when you look in the mirror and see *that*, when you see yourself for who—and *Whose*—you truly are, your entire mind-set, and your life, will change for an eternity.

We pray that as you read this book, you will begin to see yourself not through the lens of the world but through the eyes of Christ. Then and only then will you know your true worth, your true purpose, your true identity.

In Him,

*Stephen and Alex*

# CONTENTS

## INTRODUCTION: WHO AM I? . . . . . 7

- What Is Identity? . . . . . 8
- Why Is It Important? . . . . . 10
- Who Says Who You Are? . . . . . 12
- *Who Am I?* . . . . . 14

## CHAPTER 1: I AM UNIQUE . . . . . 17

- Created by God . . . . . 18
- Who Is God? . . . . . 20
- Who Are You? . . . . . 22
- Together with God . . . . . 24
- The Truth About Me . . . . . 26
- *I Am Unique* . . . . . 28

## CHAPTER 2: I AM HUMAN . . . . . 31

- Born a Rebel . . . . . 32
- But God Has a Plan . . . . . 34
- I Must Choose . . . . . 36
- And I Must Not Judge . . . . . 38
- Saved or Lost . . . . . 40
- *Saved by Grace* . . . . . 42

## CHAPTER 3: I AM MADE NEW . . . . . 45

- A New Life . . . . . 46
- A New Spirit . . . . . 48
- A New Direction . . . . . 50
- A New Purpose . . . . . 52
- A New Example . . . . . 54
- *The Fruits* . . . . . 56

## CHAPTER 4: I AM LOVED . . . . . 59

- Loved by God . . . . . 60
- Known by God . . . . . 62
- Chosen by God . . . . . 64
- One with God . . . . . 66
- Blessed by God . . . . . 68
- *Gifts from God* . . . . . 70

## CHAPTER 5: I AM A CHILD OF GOD . . . . . 73

- With His Love . . . . . 74
- With His Grace . . . . . 76
- With His Power . . . . . 78
- With His Riches . . . . . 80
- With a Role to Play . . . . . 82
- *Child of God* . . . . . 84

## CHAPTER 6: I AM AN EXAMPLE . . . . . 87

- In My Actions . . . . . 88
- In My Attitude . . . . . 90
- In My Words . . . . . 92
- In My Relationships . . . . . 94
- In My Beliefs . . . . . 96
- *The BEST Example!* . . . . . 98

## CHAPTER 7: I AM NOT ALONE . . . . . 101

- Even When I Feel Like It . . . . . 102
- Even When I'm Told That I Am . . . . . 104
- Even When It Looks Like It . . . . . 106
- Even When I Mess Up . . . . . 108
- He Is with Me Always . . . . . 110
- *Never Alone* . . . . . 112

## CHAPTER 8: I AM CALLED . . . . . 115

- To Love Him . . . . . 116
- To Worship Him . . . . . 118
- To Tell Others About Him . . . . . 120
- To Bring Glory to Him . . . . . 122
- To Serve the Needs of Others . . . . . 124
- *God Calling!* . . . . . 126

## CONCLUSION: WHO I AM! . . . . . 129

- With God Watching over Me . . . . . 130
- With the Word to Guide Me . . . . . 132
- With the Spirit Within Me . . . . . 134
- With the Faithful Beside Me . . . . . 136
- With the World Around Me . . . . . 138
- *Who I Am!* . . . . . 140

*Parent Connection* . . . . . 142

# *INTRODUCTION*



## WHAT IS IDENTITY?

*“But you,” He asked them, “who do you say that I am?”*  
—Matthew 16:15

**W**ho are you? Nothing like a big question to get us started.

What is your identity? What does that even mean? How do you identify *identity*? Simply put, you could say, it’s *who you are*. Right?

Sooo, who am I? Who are you? What makes you and me . . . *you* and *me*? What sets our identity?

These are pretty normal questions. In fact, Jesus asked His disciples similar questions. He asked what people were saying about Him, who people thought He was.

And the disciples said they had heard different answers. “Some say John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets” (Matthew 16:14).

In this one simple passage, we learn several things from Jesus about identity. First, a lot of people had it all wrong. Obviously Jesus wasn’t John the Baptist, or Elijah, or Jeremiah. He was Jesus.

Second, why do you think Jesus asked this question? Do you think Jesus was trying to figure out who He was? No. He was asking who *the people said* He was. Their answers—their wrong answers—said more about the people than they did about Jesus. Some people were more willing to believe Jesus was actually Elijah, a long-dead prophet, instead of believing Jesus was actually the promised Messiah, sent to save the world.

But just because they *thought* Jesus was John the Baptist certainly didn’t make him John the Baptist. Just because they *said* he was Elijah absolutely did not make him so. And just because they *whispered* that he was Jeremiah did not turn Jesus into Jeremiah.

No, no, and no. Jesus is and was and will forever be *Jesus*. No matter what people think. No matter what people say. No matter how many people think it and say it.

Third, last, and maybe most important: *Jesus knew who He was*. He knew the truth. He knew who He was, who had sent Him, and what His purpose was here on planet Earth. And nothing, no thing, no person was going to change that.



## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

*Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God!”—Matthew 16:16*

If someone told me that I was an excellent basketball player, I can’t say that I’d believe them. If someone tried to convince me that I was a long-lost prince, well, I’d probably just laugh at them. If someone told me that I should be a supermodel, I’d *know* they were joking. And I certainly wouldn’t spend my life pursuing that modeling career.

Why? Because I know the truth. I know my identity. And while God created me to be lots of wonderful things, I am none of *those* things.

Your identity sets your course in this world, whether you know it or not. And if you don’t know your identity, if you spend your entire life searching for it, trying everything the world tells you to do to “find yourself,” you’re going to follow a really zig-zaggy course that possibly leads to nowhere.

So let’s get back to Jesus. The disciples had already told Him what “the people” were saying about His identity. Then Jesus turned to them and asked, “Who do you say that I am?” (Matthew 16:15).

Immediately Simon Peter replied, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God!” (v. 16).

Did those words turn Jesus into the Messiah? No. Did Jesus suddenly have His Messiah clothes and carriage, as if Simon Peter

were a magical fairy godmother? Um, no. But with those words, Peter stated the truth about Jesus’s identity. He showed that he understood who Jesus really was. And Peter demonstrated that he was someone Jesus could trust with His identity.

Through it all, however, whether people said Jesus was Elijah or the Messiah, Jesus knew who He was. He knew His identity. And that identity didn’t change.

You see, not everyone in this world is going to tell you the truth about who you are. They’re going to tell you who *they* think you are or who *they* want you to be. But that has everything to do with the world and very little to do with who you *really, truly* are.

This is why it is *so very important* that you know your identity, that you know who you are, that you know Whose you are, and that you know you were created for a purpose, to do good and godly works. This is the truth about your identity. And by knowing that truth, you’ll be able to hear the words of the world and filter out the truth from the lies.



## WHO SAYS WHO YOU ARE?

*And Jesus responded, “Simon son of Jonah, you are blessed because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father in heaven.”—Matthew 16:17*

**Y**ou’re awesome!”

“You’re a loser!”

“You’re wonderfully made.”

Whew. That’s a lot of noise. Out of all the voices telling us who we are, which one do we listen to?

We’ve already determined that the voices of the outside world aren’t super reliable. But what about your friends? Shouldn’t your friends know who you are? Or your family? They live with you. They’ve smelled your stinky feet and heard you singing in the shower. Surely *they* have a true picture of who you are. Right?

Well, the answer is really simple: you are who God says you are. No *ifs*, *ands*, or *buts*. No exceptions. If anyone says anything that disagrees with who God says you are, they are wrong. Period.

Okay, sure, maybe that answer is simple, but seeing it play out in everyday life is not *easy*. I mean, if you walked into school one day and everyone screamed “Loser!” that wouldn’t be easy to forget.

And that is why this message is so important. That is why you *have* to know who you are. The world out there isn’t always easy, and it isn’t always kind. You’re going to need an armor of truth to make it through. You’re going to need wisdom and facts to make tough choices. You’re going to have to be prepared, to learn to stand tall and sure in your identity.

Let’s get back to Peter and Jesus. When Peter declared the truth about Jesus’s identity, Jesus immediately knew the Source of Peter’s wisdom. Jesus said to Peter, “Flesh and blood did not

reveal this to you, but My Father in heaven” (Matthew 16:17). We trust that if God revealed the holy identity of Jesus to Peter, He’ll reveal a little of our identities to us.

So that’s what we’re going to do. We’re going straight to the Source. We’re going to dig in to the truth of God’s Word. We’re going to see, with our very own eyes, what our Creator says about who we are. Because only in knowing who you are, Whose you are, and your purpose in this world will you become fully who God created you to be.





## WHO AM I?



### KNOW THIS!

*You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God!—Matthew 16:16*

Before we dig in to what God says about you, take a few minutes to tell us what you already know about yourself.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite color: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite school subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite movie: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite thing to play: \_\_\_\_\_

The best things about me: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

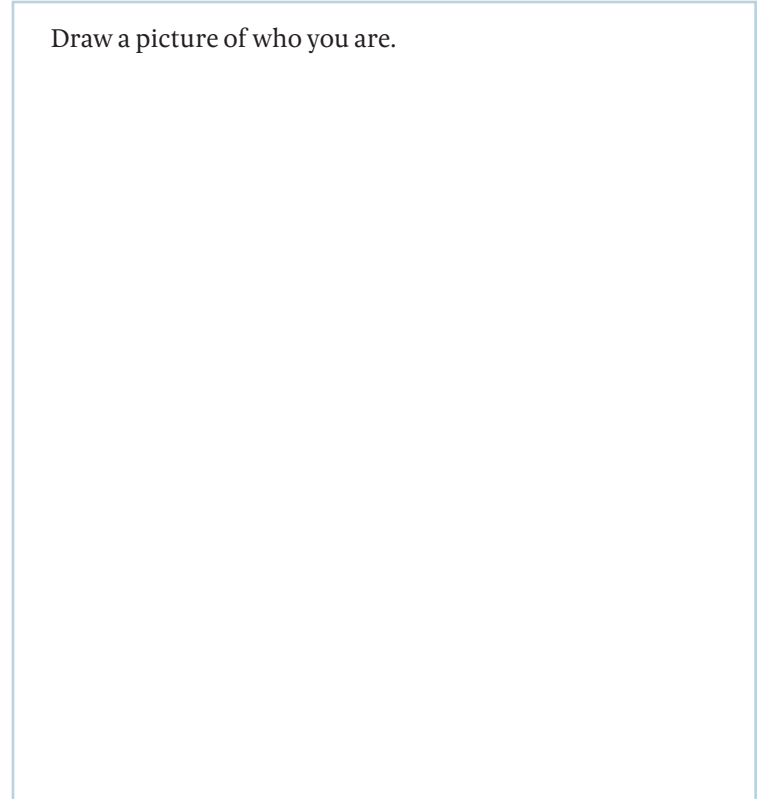
I think that I am: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

God thinks that I am: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Draw a picture of who you are.



## THE WONDERS OF YOU

Did you know that more than 60 percent of human genes are identical to that of a . . .  
**BANANA?!<sup>1</sup>**



1. <https://www.getscience.com/biology-explained/how-genetically-related-are-we-bananas>