

The Reborn Identity – Definitions

What is Identity?

There are many things I identify as.

- American
- When younger I tried to identify as surfer
- Horrible drummer
- Videographer
- Pastor

These are sub-identities. Some are actually roles. But none of these are important enough, foundational enough that they actually declare who I am and shape the way I relate to everything.

And these are all subject to change. If you derive who you are based on something that can change, when change occurs you can feel like you are nothing, or you don't know who you are anymore.

Definitions

Identity (Mirriam-Webster) - a basis (such as a tenet, principle, or axiom) upon which something stands or is supported; an underlying base or support; a body or ground upon which something is built up or overlaid; the basis or groundwork of anything.

- It is how you live your life. The framework that shapes how you view everything else.
- We take on different roles, but we can only live from one foundation.
 - **1 Corinthians 3:11** For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
- God designed mankind to live from a foundation that is built by Him and Him alone, and when we do, we begin to walk in our full identity in Christ.
- We function best when we live how God designed us to live, which is from a place of union and fellowship with Him.

There is another definition of Identity – What we are born into.

“Birth determines identity.”

- Born into the royal family makes you royalty
- I am a Schinneller, and that means something to some people.
- We are born into both a physical family and a spiritual family.
 - Upon birth, both are in Adam.
 - **1 Corinthians 15:45** And so it is written, “*The first man Adam became a living being.*” The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit.
- When we are born again, we are born into a new spiritual family, and we are in God. God now becomes our Father.
 - **1 Corinthians 15:22** For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.
 - **Romans 8:16-17** ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.

Misconceptions about Identity

Misconception #1: We determine our own identity, or we are responsible for our own identity.

- WORLD PHILOSOPHY
 - You determine your destiny.
 - Do not let anyone tell you who you are.
 - Life is all about finding yourself, or creating yourself.
- TRUTH
 - We cannot control the future.
 - We are the creation, not the creator
 - **Romans 9:20** But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed *it*, “Why have you made me like this?”
 - We cannot define ourselves.

Misconception #2: We are what we do.

- WORLD PHILOSOPHY
 - You are what you do.
 - Occupation
 - Behavior (are you good, bad, wild, funny)
 - People become what they do.
 - If you are not good, act good and you will be good.
 - Fake it till you make it
 - This is behavioral modification, and where most Christians live today.
 - If you want to be a better Christian, act like a better Christian
- TRUTH
 - What you believe is how you will behave.
 - What we believe about ourselves will determine how we interpret life in general:
 - How we relate to ourselves
 - How we relate to others
 - How we relate to God

Misconception #3: We define ourselves by things we have already been set free from. This only really applies to Christians.

- CHURCH PHILOSOPHY
 - "I'm a sinner saved by grace."
 - "I'm not perfect—just forgiven."
 - This is the cycle of behavioral modification.
- If you are set free, then you are set free
 - You don't hear a blind person that got healed say "I'm a blind person seeing by grace."
 - This is actually one issue I have with AA. They have to declare an identity that they can be free from, but not if they keep declaring it.
- Behavioral modification breeds self-judgment and self-hatred. It causes us to define ourselves by our failures, even our perceived

failures.

- TRUTH
 - Jesus has actually set us free from those things.
 - **John 8:36** Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.
 - **Romans 6:6-7** ⁶ knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. ⁷ For he who has died has been freed from sin.
 - **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
- You used to be a sinner, but you are not a sinner anymore.
- You are perfect.
 - **Hebrews 10:14** For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

Why is identity so important?

1. Everything in your life is built from your identity.
 - a. What you believe about yourself determines how you interpret life.
 - b. How you interpret life determines your quality of life.
2. God created you with the ability to choose whether to live out of your real identity or something else.
 - a. There is only one place that God designed for you to live from, and you have a choice to live from that place or not.
 - b. Even when you live from a place that is not your full identity in Christ, this does NOT mean that God is not blessing you and teaching you; it does not mean that you are not maturing in your faith.
 - i. **Psalms 145:8-9** The LORD *is* gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. ⁹ The LORD *is* good to all, and His tender mercies *are* over all His works.

3. It opens the way to receiving a revelation of God's love and deeper intimacy with Him.
 - a. Clears the way for healing
 - i. Ex – Tina
 - b. Breakthrough and victory can happen as you believe what God says about you.

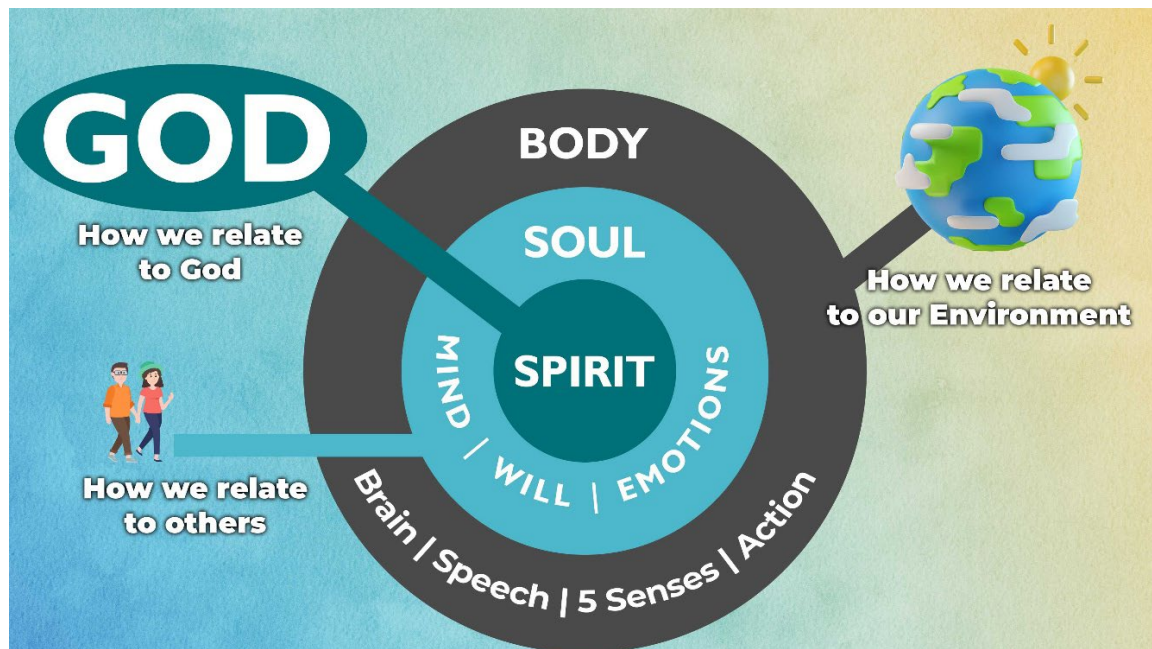
Your Design

You are a three-part whole: spirit, soul and body. "I am a SPIRIT who has a SOUL and lives in a BODY."

- **1 Thessalonians 5:23** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Some only think of us as 2-part, inner and outer. That is true, just like an orange, and sometimes helpful to look at it like that, but that is not how God views us.

- **Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.



Describe Picture

Man is a spirit, who has a soul, that lives in a body. You are designed to operate as a whole based on your spirit. Your spirit determines your identity.

We are made in God's image

- **Genesis 1:27** So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
 - What does in His image mean?
 - **John 4:24** God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
 - We are spirit beings!

Spirit: The core of who you are.

- Relates primarily to God—where God dwells within you, and you are in union with Him.
- The part of you that holds your spiritual DNA.
- Uniquely created, where your whole person originates.

When we recognize that we are spirit, then our spirit can determine our identity.

- If you think you are a soul, then you try to live out an identity based on how you feel, or something that you think is important.
- If you think of yourself only as a physical being, then you live out of your flesh. This will result in hedonism, lust, and pride.

Soul: Personality

- Relates primarily to people (personality to personality) and to yourself.
 - Mind: how you think logically and reach conclusions.
 - Emotions: what you feel with
 - Will: your chooser—the center where all your choices happen.
 - Connects to one of two power sources: flesh or spirit.

- Uniquely created, where the action part of sanctification takes place.
- Remember, you are not your soul, you are spirit. That is why you can be being sanctified AND be righteous at the same time.

Body: A dwelling

- Relates primarily to the physical world around you.
 - The five senses, actions, speech
 - Brain: computer processor, processes data from your five senses, tells the body to act, tells the body what to say, gateway to the soul
- Uniquely created and is the #1 identifier to the rest of the world that you are you.