



Then fear came on all who dwelt around them; and all these sayings were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea. And all those who heard them kept them in their hearts, saying, “What kind of child will this be?” — Luke 1:65-66

My Identity in Christ

Praise of Zacharias

🌀 Lk. 1:68-69 – “Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David.”



Our Names

🕒 Phil. 2:9-11 – “Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

🕒 What are the benefits of being called by His name?



Our Relationships

🔗 Consider these statistics:

🔗 Even after controlling for community context, there is significantly more drug use among children who do not live with their mother and father.

Source: Hoffmann, John P. "The Community Context of Family Structure and Adolescent Drug Use." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 64 (May 2002): 314-330.

🔗 In a study examining father involvement with 134 children of adolescent mothers over the first 10 years of life, researchers found that father-child contact was associated with better socio-emotional and academic functioning. The results indicated that children with more involved fathers experienced fewer behavioral problems and scored higher on reading achievement. This study showed the significance of the role of fathers in the lives of at-risk children, even in case of nonresident fathers.

Source: Howard, K. S., Burke Lefever, J. E., Borkowski, J.G., & Whitman, T. L. (2006). *Fathers' influence in the lives of children with adolescent mothers. Journal of Family Psychology*, 20, 468- 476.

Our Relationships

- 👁️ *“Tell me who your friends are and I will tell you who you are.” — Ancient Proverb*
- 👁️ 1 Cor. 15:33 – Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”

Physical Appearance

- Consider John the Baptist and the Pharisees
- 2 Cor. 5:20 – “...we are ambassadors for Christ...”
- A testimony will outlast a title
- Part of our identity in Christ is how we present Him to the world



Nationality

- ✧ Rom. 8:5 – “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.”
- ✧ Phil. 3:20 – “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ...”



Identity Problem

🕒 Sometimes we portray a false identity

🕒 False positive

🕒 False negative



Summary

- 🕒 What makes up our ID in Christ?
 - 🕒 Our name – the name is powerful and worthy of invocation
 - 🕒 Relationships – seek and be spiritual friends
 - 🕒 Physical appearance – A testimony will outlast a title
 - 🕒 Nationality – where is my nationality? It's a choice
- 🕒 Beware of false identities