

*transformed*

by

HIS

Spirit

S E M I N A R



with R O B B R U C E

*"But we all... Beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord...  
Are being transformed into the same image... By the Spirit."*

2 Corinthians 3:18

"Becoming who we really are by  
Beholding who he really is."

## LESSON4: OUR TRUE IDENTITY IN CHRIST

### Learning Objective:

To understand our true identity in Christ so that we may fulfill our destiny. //

*'those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son' (Rom 8:28,29)*

### 1. IDENTITY And DESTINY

God's purpose for us is to be transformed into His Son's image. However, unknown to many believers, satan is also actively working against this purpose.

**Christ's identity** was assaulted when tempted by Satan e.g. 'If you are the son of God'; so that Gods plan of redemption would fail. But He was secure in His Fathers love and passed the test.

**Israel's false identity** as a slave (grasshopper) nation sabotaged her purpose to possess the Promised Land. Joshua, however, loved spending time with his 'Daddy' and led Israel into the Promised Land and God's destiny.

**Mans identity** has also been distorted by the enemy so that God's destiny for each of us might be derailed. Why is this such a common problem?

Knowing our identity is a powerful threat to the enemy's kingdom. He will do anything to kill, steal or destroy this truth in us! If it's important to the enemy, it certainly should be a top priority to us. Realize that he also has a plan – to make us into his dark image. Let's overcome him by agreeing with what God says about us and reject the lies that we have accepted as truth.

### 2. Who are you?

*(Gen 1:26-27)Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness,... 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

#### *Tree of Life*

The Father gave Adam and Eve His life and image and then put the 'tree of Life' in the garden to maintain fellowship with Him and to also let him 'have dominion.' This same life seed (Spirit) also entered us at our rebirth, creating His image in us.

## God's Image in Man Shattered

Tree of Knowledge

*Gen 3:4-5* “**You will not surely die,**” the serpent said to the woman. **5** “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**”

Sin brought death to Adam when he agreed with the serpent. If his Life-source determined his identity, what happened to his identity when his spirit died and intimate fellowship with his Father was broken? His image was broken as well.

Authority to have ‘dominion’ was also transferred to the enemy, and so Adam’s destiny was also lost. This is the tragic result of choosing ‘to be like God’ apart from His Life (power) and trusting our own religious knowledge.

Another Tree

*2 Cor 5: 21* God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that **in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

God’s image was restored in man through the Cross of Jesus! So what does His image look like?

*Col 1: 15* **He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.**

‘**Firstborn**’ gk. *Prototokos* is the same word we derive **prototype** from. As the Creator, **Jesus the Creator was the first of many new creations!**

*‘No one **born(begotten) of God**(deliberately and knowingly) habitually practices sin, for **God’s nature abides in him - His principle of life, the divine sperm remains permanently within him – and he cannot practice sinning because he has been born (begotten) of God.** (1John 3:9)*

**Our \_\_\_\_\_ determines our identity.**

Children – Born of the Spirit (John 3: 3)

**Q. How can know I’m His child experientially?**

*The LORD God formed the man ...and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.** (Gen 2:7)*

In order to fully **experience our true worth** in our hearts, we need to receive and reverence the breath of God's Spirit within.  
As sons we *'know and rely on the love God has for us.'*

*And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.  
(1John 3:24)*

*The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children  
(Rom 8:16-17)*

**We are \_\_\_\_\_ and valued by our Heavenly Father.**

New Creations

*'therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!'* (2 Cor 5: 17)

**Q. What part of us has become new?**

*'they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. (John 17: 14,16)*

*But he who unites himself with the Lord is **one with him in spirit**'.*

Man's spirit

Outwardly, we obviously have the same bodies that we had before our new birth. But inwardly, a radical transformation has occurred. Our spirit, once dead in sin, has become alive by receiving forgiveness of sins through Christ's blood shed on the cross. Our spirit is now in union with God.

**Your spirit is that part of you that senses the presence of God.**

(see 1 Cor 6: 17) (Mat 26:41) (John 3: 5-6)

### **3. Three Distorted Mirrors**

Understanding who we are has become distorted through bad 'lighting' and has limited the churches' potential for centuries. Let's clean the mirror and see our smiling image in Biblical light.

**Q. What did Jesus mean when he spoke of being born again? What actually happened at that moment?**

*Distortion#1*

**“Jesus forgave me of my sins. But I am essentially the same person I was before salvation.”**

Q. So what actually took place at salvation?

The Life of God

*In him was life, (John 1 :4)*

Many believers have struggled for years in their walk because they don't understand what happened at their rebirth. **We are not the person we were before we were saved. A new person that never existed before suddenly came alive in you at salvation.** Your personality remained but the old you died. Not in some vague symbolic sense - but in reality.

*“The old has gone, the new has come”!*

**God's life actually gave birth to a new creation!** By believing that I'm still the same person I was before salvation, I will fail to live up to God's fullest potential for my life.

**Distortion#2**

**“When I was born again I just added a new life (nature) to my old life (nature).”**

A New Nature

**Q. Do we have two natures within us struggling for control of our lives?**

Nature #1 - The big black dog

Nature #2 - The big white dog

**Q. How Biblical is this, based on who we are in Christ?**

*For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, (Col 1:13)*

Accept the truth: “I am rescued from that dark nature and I am a child of light!”

Eph 2: 1-3 describes the nature we all shared before receiving Christ.

1 *As for you, **you were dead** in your transgressions and sins,*  
3 *All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the **cravings of our sinful nature** and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, **we were by nature objects of wrath.***

2 Pet 1:4 Describes the radical inner transformation at our rebirth.

*Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them **you may participate in the divine nature** and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

***Col.2:11** When you came to Christ, you were 'circumcised,' but not by a physical procedure. It was a spiritual procedure - **the cutting away of your sinful nature.***

*(see Ezek 36: 26)*

**Q. Can we be partly new creature and partly old creature?**

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; **the old has gone, the new has come!** (2 Cor 5: 17)*

**Q. However, can a Christian sin?** Of course!

*If we say we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. (1 John 1: 8)*

But **having** sin and **being** sin are two completely different issues.

**Q. When we choose to sin why does it bother us so much?**

Simply because it is contrary to our new nature.

*For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that **you do not do the things that you wish.** (Gal 5: 17 NKJV)*

*'So I am not the one doing wrong' (Rom. 7:17) The battle is with the flesh!*

**Q. Can we still be in both kingdoms?**

*But **ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit**, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man has not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. (Rom 8:9) (KJV)*

**NOTE:** The NKJV uses the word “flesh” here. This I believe is more accurate than the NIV which uses “sinful nature”.

The struggle is with our flesh, not with the ‘old man’. He’s dead. We must deal with the flesh daily by “walking in the Spirit.”

As God’s children, we possess incredible potential for reflecting God’s glory! Part of us actually has the capacity to live above sin. Unless we learn to live from our new nature, we will always struggle with sin.

Our need is to understand our true identity. Ignorance to this truth will result in certain failure in our efforts to live the victorious Christian life.

### **Distortion #3**

**I’m essentially the same old sinner “saved by grace” that I was before salvation.**

Who Are You?

*For you **were** once **darkness**, but **now you are light** in the Lord. (Eph 5:8)*

**Q.** Does Paul say we were **in** darkness?

No. He clearly says **WE WERE** darkness.

Darkness wasn’t what we did. It was who we **WERE**.

**Q.** Does he say we are now **in** the light?

Likewise, **WE ARE LIGHT** now. Our nature was changed from darkness to light, from sinner to saint!

**Q. How can you say that we’re saints when we act like sinners? 1(1Jn 3:9)**

**Q. How can you say the church (like Corinth) - full of pride, factions, and sexual immorality - are saints? That’s not reality!**

We can because the Bible does.

*To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, **called to be saints**, (1 Cor 1: 2 NKJV) (See 2 Cor 1: 1b) (See Eph 1: 1)*

### **NOTE:**

If we **believe** we’re a sinner that’s what we’ll **act like!!**

Paul's work was to open their eyes to see their new nature and identity so that they would begin to live according to that nature.

(See Eph 1-4, Gal 1-5, Rom 5-8)

*1 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God... But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. (1John 3:1-2)*

**Q. What affect does seeing who God is, have on us?**

We become more like Him!

**Q. What affect does seeing who we are, have on us?**

*Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. (1 John 3:3)*

**Q. How does seeing my new identity help me in my day to day living?**

Many believers desperately try to become what they already are. Knowing the truth of our identity inwardly releases us from relentless guilt, fear and condemnation. We know we are accepted by God and don't have to perform. In freedom, we can now relax and enjoy Jesus. Inwardly we are transformed and empowered as we fulfill life's demands.

#### 4. MATURING as 'SONS'

**Rev.21:7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son (huios).** (See Rev.3:20, 21; Rev.21:3-7; Romans 8:14-17)

<b>'Teknon' (John 1:12)</b>	<b>'Huios' (Matt. 3:17)</b>
<b>Born of God</b>	<b>Adopted son (taught)</b>
<b>Child (slave)</b>	<b>Mature son</b>
<b>Image of self</b>	<b>Image of Father</b>
<b>Overcome</b>	<b>Over come r</b>
<b>Nature of God</b>	<b>Nature /character of God</b>
<b>Right to inheritance</b>	<b>Participates in inheritance</b>
<b>No authority (unproven)</b>	<b>All authority (proven)</b>
<b>Anointings</b>	<b>A habitation</b>



***Gal 4:1*** What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. 2 He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. 3 So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. 4 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, 5 to redeem those under law, **that we might receive the full rights of sons.** 6 **Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."** 7 **So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.**

Our inheritance and destiny in Heaven is based on our maturity and Christ like character on earth. We all start as children but our Fathers desire is that we allow trials to transform us into His likeness. As we allow the Holy Spirit to teach and mentor us in the Fathers ways we are given authority to do His Kingdom business.

## 5. PERCEPTION AND PRACTICE

Q. Why is it so important to see who I am as a child of God?

**Our \_\_\_\_\_ of who we are directly affects our behavior.**

*Your eye (heart) is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are bad, your body also is full of darkness. (Luke 11:34)*

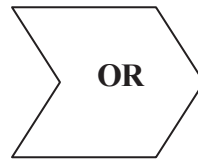
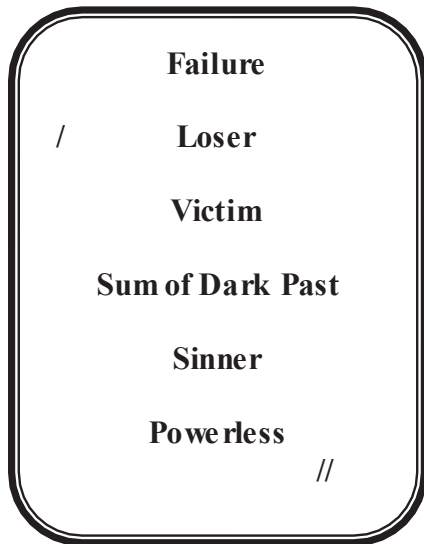
*See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness. Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be completely lighted, as when the light of a lamp shines on you." (Luke 11: 35,36)*

**We have a \_\_\_\_\_ to dispel darkness with the light (truth).**

## REALITY CHECK:

Q.If you *see yourself* as a:

Q. Or if you *see yourself* as:



**How will you live?**

**How will you live?**

**Seeing** my true identity in Him purifies my **behavior!** (1Jn 3:3)

“As a person thinks in his heart, so he will become.” (Prov 23:7)

**Smashing Your Mirrors (Lies):**

**Socially:** Are you who **others** say you are?

**Circumstantially:** Are you the sum total of **life's past events?**  
(Success? or Failures?)

**Emotionally:** Are you who you **feel** you are?

**Perceptually:** Are you who you **think** you are?

## Hurts, Hiding and Bad Roots

A wounded heart will form false images (lies) about who we are. (i.e. 'I am different,' 'I am bad.')

We fear we'll be found out so we hide (control). These lies are deeply rooted in us and must be uprooted, renounced and replaced with the truth of who we really are.

Before they rebelled, Adam and Eve were free in who they were. Gen 2:25 *'the man and his wife were both **naked**, and they **felt no shame**'*. But after the fall, something happened in them that caused them to hide.

### 5. Rooting out the Shame- Based Identity <sup>1</sup>

*Gen.3:8-10 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" 10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and **I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.**"*

#### Honesty

Freedom begins with honesty with God (Psa 142) –not hiding. Pour out your heart to Him. He already knows how you feel, so tell Him everything and hide nothing.

*2Co 4:2 We **refuse to wear masks and play games**. We don't maneuver and manipulate behind the scenes... **we keep everything we do and say out in the open**, the whole truth on display; Rather, we have **renounced secret and shameful ways**;*

Jesus bore our shame as He hung naked on the Cross. Give it to Him. Let Him forgive and wash you and then you can renounce all shame, fear and control. Replace the lies with Gods word as you bask in the light of His presence.

*6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us **the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ**. (2Co 3:13, 14, 18; 2Co 4:2, 4) (Rom 8:29, Col 1:15, 3:10)*

*1 Kylstra 's RTF manual pg 353. see (Rom 12:2; 2Tim 2:21; Jam 1:27; 1Jn3:3) also see Jack Frosts 'Experiencing the Father's Embrace' ch.8*

**Q. Since we are new creations doesn't that mean that we are already perfected?**

2 Cor 3:18 NIV *'We... who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are **being transformed** into his likeness with ever-increasing glory'; **our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful** as God enters our lives and we become like him'. (mes)*

If we've already 'made it' then we'd have no need to be transformed with ever increasing glory.

*'Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, **perfecting (completing)** holiness out of reverence for God'. 2 Cor 7:1 NIV*

Again this work implies a time process. God's not finished with us yet!

## **NOTES:**

For more information or to obtain a full copy of this work, please visit our website at

<http://www.bethesdafamilycounselling.com/shop>