



I. WHEN IT COMES TO PASTORING.....

A. Seek to Understand

1. Listen

Ponder the wound & confusion with them. Really listen.

2. “Read”

“Body language is mute, but it can still scream loudly.” (Have a New Teenager by Friday, by Dr. Kevin Leman)

Reading People by Dimitrius & Mazzarella

What Every Body is Saying by Navarro

3. Ask Questions

Don’t assume you know the reason for their questions or confusion.

B. Impart with Heart

1. Don’t try to be nicer than God. Offer the velvet brick of truth with kindness.

2. The only time Jesus described himself personally was in Mt. 11:29 to crowds *“...I am meek (kind) and lowly (humble) of heart...”*

C. Pray

1. WITH them & FOR them

2. This acknowledges that you don’t know them completely or know all the answers, but your hope for them resides in a God who does.

D. Offer Discipleship

1. Meet regularly for a season of time. Teens thrive on healthy relationships. **This takes....**

a. Consistency

b. Patience

c. Interwoven fun &/or laughter – *“Laughter happens when our minds come together and something unexpected happens. We feel the ping of common recognition. We laugh to celebrate our shared understanding. We see each other.” (How to Know a Person by David Brooks)* It creates a bond, affirms value, & communicates acceptance just as they are.

d. Connecting with others in the process. (This relates to “assignments”)

Maybe in group discussion, or just in activity. Both of these help with validation & a healthy self-esteem.

2. Create personal identity “assignments” that...

a. Inform & instruct regarding their worth from God’s perspective

b. Connect with their personality type & traits

c. Can fit into their daily/weekly schedule reasonably



II. DEFINING “IDENTITY”

- *The qualities, beliefs, personality traits, physical attributes, interests and/or expressions that characterize a person*
- *The capacity for self-reflection and self-awareness*
- *How a person identifies & defines themselves as a contributor to the society around them.*

A. The Basic Makeup of a Person’s Identity?

- 1. Personality types & traits**
- 2. Family placement** (*1ST born, middle child....., blended family placement....*)
- 3. Talents/Gifts** (*athletic/non-athletic, musical/non-musical, artistic/non-artistic, scientific, mathematical, prophetic, merciful, giving, administrative...*)
- 4. Personal pathway/events or circumstances that occur in our developmental years & our current situation** (*Christian/non-Christian, healthy/unhealthy, abusive/loving, social status – financial status...*)
- 5. Season of life** (*age, health/disability...*)
- 6. Ethnicity/cultural inheritance**
- 7. Spiritual journey** (*saved at young age, recently, sincere believer, trained to walk out beliefs, water baptized, filled with the Spirit...*)

We’re all made uniquely and our pathways are unique to us as well. We do NOT fit into a prescribed box.

B. Adolescent Identity Formation

- 1. This refers to the stage between childhood and adulthood in which an adolescent’s identity is shaped by multiple factors, such as physical changes, cognitive development, communication skill development, and societal expectations – including education, parents, peers, pastors & mentors.*
- 2. Factors that strongly influence the health of adolescent identity development include the level and meaningfulness of parent & peer support [“psychosocial well-being”], environmental stresses, and their ability to form personal interests, commitments, and goals.*
- 3. The most common stressors adolescents face are personal struggles with self-esteem and confidence. With healthy relationship development & consistent communication from family, friends, pastors, & mentors, most teens negotiate adolescence well.*

III. STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW THEIR IDENTITY FORMATION FROM GOD’S PERSPECTIVE

- A. In Your Creation: You are “very good” – above His other creations [Gen 1:31]**



You have worth because of “whose” you are, not ‘who’ you are.

1. Genesis 1:26-27 – *He created me.*
2. Job 10:8 – *Your hands have made me.*
3. Psalm 139:13 – *You have covered me in my mother’s womb.*
4. Genesis 1:31 – *“...it was very good.”*

You are “very good” but.... Romans 3:23, 24 – *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”*

Some have been told, like I was, that you can BE anything and DO anything in life you want & be HAPPY. – You can’t. To be fulfilled you must be and do the will of God. To be it – is to realize you’re a sinner saved by grace. To do it – is to seek His guidance.

“What we make of ourselves, by God’s grace plays a part in our self-esteem but it is **not** the primary basis. [You can either **bolster** or **shred** what God has made you to be – the choice is yours. What you ‘make of yourself’ is not the PRIMARY basis of your worth. This is why those who are deemed to be successful in the eyes of many commit suicide. They are on a search for true worth and value that they never discover in their field of “success.” **We** can **never do enough** to establish our **true worth**. That worth comes from God, our creator.

Word pic: Compare a person to a **gold necklace** and you’ll see better what I mean. A gold necklace has worth because it is a necklace, but it has a **prior worth** because it is gold.

Humans are like that: No matter what shape we are in, what abuse we have endured at our own hands or the hands of others. We are precious simply because we exist. **Sin doesn’t ruin our worth, even if it does create an obstacle that affects our function. Sin does not ruin your **VALUE** to Creator God]**

Worth isn’t found in our accomplishments, nor in our salvation, but in something that comes **prior to those two: **our creation. We have worth because God has created us.**** [Just sitting here – You have worth!]

Your teens need to know..... No matter how much they fail, how little they accomplish, how many exams they fail, or how much they sin, they have worth. No matter if they make the team, get first seat in the orchestra, are acknowledged in their field of study or art. No one and nothing can touch their value; not shame, not guilt, not failure, and not the criticisms of a parent, teacher, coach or anyone else. They have value because of Whose they are, not who they are in the moment now or the moments of tomorrow.

B. In Your Beginning: **You are well planned and greatly loved.** [Psa. 139]

1. Developmental Stages

The Lord’s perspective of you did not begin at the cross – Your perspective of Him began at the cross.



Psalm 139:1-4,13-16 (NIV) “O Lord, you have searched me & you know me. (2) You know when I sit & when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. (3) You discern my going out & my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. (4) Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord....(13) For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. (14) I praise you because I am fearfully & wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. (15) My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, (16) your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”

a. Foundation Building Stage

(1) Cycle: *Birth-6 yrs. [0-6]*

- 50% of characteristics (*personality tendencies*) developed by age 3
- 75% of characteristics developed by age 5
- “Pre-formal thinkers” – **What is said & done is accepted, not analyzed.**
Whatever people tell you is ‘true’ & accepted.
(i.e. “We’re going to a fun place! This will be fun! Jump! I’ll catch you!”)
- “Magical thinkers” – **What is imagined is real.**
Imagine that there are monsters under the bed. Imagine that God is a big eye or a being with many eyes that will see you if you’re naughty.

(2) Focus: Discipline Development

- Developing discipline is simple if consistent at this stage.
- When discipline is lacking, children become self-centered, demanding and insecure because they don’t know where the boundaries are.

b. Training & Educational Basics Stage

(1) Cycle: *6-12 years [6-11]*

“Concrete thinkers” – **Begin to develop logic.** _What’s right/wrong (good vs. bad) – “good boy/nice girl”
Needs fixed rules as logic develops.
‘Right/Wrong’
i.e. narrow glass vs. wide glass – narrow glass appears to have “more milk” so it “**does** have more milk! – that’s **obvious & logical!**”
‘Good boy/Nice girl’
Wants autonomy but feels **abandoned, worthless & shamed** if left alone too much.

(2) Focus: Information/Education



Image of self-worth can be wounded by unrealistic expectations of parents and/or through self-imposed comparisons.

c. Skill Development Stage

(1) Cycle: 12-20 years [12-18]

“Logical Thinkers” – **Begin to reason, rationalize & manipulate their environment.** No longer a child, yet not an adult – reaching for maturity, but not quite there.

- Develop social relational values & skills.
“I’m acceptable if I…”
- Develop reason & rationale.
“If I do ‘this,’ it will make up for ‘that.’”

Factors that influence identity development in adolescence:

1. Level of parent support
2. Level of peer support
3. Environmental stresses
4. Ability to form personal interests & goals

(2) Focus: Developing Self-control

- Must have opportunities to fail/succeed without major correction & much encouragement.
- Need to work on consistent growth & developing responsibility.

d. Apprenticeship Stage [Young Adult]

(1) Cycle: 20-30 years [18-30]

- Personal identity further developed & defined.
Leaving & Cleaving – Emancipation from parents & Embracing adult responsibilities.
- Social skills & values solidified.
Social circle enlarging – singleness & healthy friendships, marriage, babies, children starting school.

(2) Focus: Serving

- *Separating desire from expectations in relationships in a healthy manner.*
- *Giving honor to others in deference & humility.*

[B. In Your Beginning “You are well-planned & greatly loved – continued”]

2. Personality “Types” and “Traits” [Psa. 139:1-4]



Remember, we're all made differently – *Most of us don't fit into a box.*

- *Personality*
- *Family Placement*
- *Talents/Gifts*
- *Personal Pathway*
- *Natural Season of Life*
- *Ethnic/Cultural Inheritance*
- *Personal Spiritual Journey*

Note these books:

How to Know a Person by David Brooks; *Transformed Temperaments* by Tim LaHaye; *Personality Plus* by Florence Littauer; *The Road Back to You* by Cron & Stabile; *Mindset* by Carol S. Dweck, PH.D.; *Type Talk* by Otto Kroeger & Janet M. Thuesen; *5 Love Languages* by Gary Chapman; *Strengthsfinder* by Tom Rath; *Emotional Intelligence* by Travis Bradberry & Jean Greaves

Basic Personality “Temperaments” (Taken from *Transformed Temperaments* by Tim LaHaye)

The **Sanguine** person is carefree and full of hope; attributes great importance to whatever he may be dealing with at the moment, but have forgotten all about it the next. He means to keep his promises but fails to do so because he never considered deeply enough to help others, but is a bad debtor and constantly asks for time to pay. He is very sociable, given to pranks, contented, does not take anything very seriously, and has many, many friends. He is not vicious but difficult to convert from his sins; he may repent but this contrition (which never becomes a feeling of guilt) is soon forgotten. He is easily fatigued and bored by work but is constantly engaged in mere games – these carry with them constant change, and persistence is not his forte.

People tending towards **melancholia** attribute great importance to everything that concerns them. They discover everywhere cause for anxiety and notice first of all the difficulties in a situation, in contradiction to the sanguine person. He does not make promises easily because he insists on keeping his word, but has to consider whether he will be able to do so. All this is not because of moral considerations but because interaction with others makes him worried, suspicious and thoughtful. It is for this reason happiness escapes him.

The **choleric** person is said to be hot-headed, is quickly roused, but easily calmed down if his opponent gives in; he is annoyed without lasting hatred. Activity is quick but not persistent. He is busy but does not like to be in business precisely because he is not persistent; he prefers to give orders but does not want to be bothered with carrying them out. He loves open recognition & wants to be publicly praised. He loves appearances, pomp and formality; he is full of pride and self-love. He is miserly; polite but with ceremony; he suffers most through the refusal of others to fall in with his pretensions. In one word, the choleric temperament is the least happy because it is most likely to call forth opposition to itself. [He receives the most open criticism.]

Phlegma means lack of emotion, not laziness; it implies a tendency to be moved neither quickly nor easily but persistently. Such a person warms up slowly but he retains the warmth longer. He acts on principle not by instinct; his happy temperament may supply the lack of sagacity and wisdom. He is reasonable in his dealings with other people and usually gets his way by persisting in his objectives while appearing to give way to others.”

3. God designed your appearance.



Psa. 139:14-16 (NIV) *“(14) I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. (15) My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, (16) your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”*

Psa. 45:13 (NIV) *“All glorious is the princess within her chamber; her gown is interwoven with gold.”*

Psa. 144:12 (NIV) *“Then our sons in their youth will be like well-nurtured plants, and our daughters will be like pillars carved to adorn a palace.”*

4. God chose your name

Isa. 43:7 (NIV) *[His family name] “everyone who is **called by my name**, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”*

Isa. 43:1 (NIV) *[your personal name] “...Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have **called you by name**; you are mine.”*

5. God selected your family placement

****These are tendencies!****

- Gender issues can affect this.
- Blended family issues can affect this.
- Marriage later in life can affect this.

a. The only child

- Often pampered.
- Center of attention – *often enjoys this position.*
- Center of focused expectations. *[Can feel incompetent because adults are more capable comparatively.]*
- May feel isolated, alone & socially stunted without siblings.
- Can be Self-focused & self-important.
- Relies on others serving them rather than them serving others.
- Feels unfairly treated when they don't get their own way.
- Manipulates one parent against the other to get their way.

b. The firstborn child

- Used to being the center of attention, as you were the only child for a period of time. May strive to keep or regain parents' attention through conformity. If this fails, may choose to misbehave to gain it.
- Usually had a lot of expectations put on you at the 1stborn.



- Have a strong (unseen) need for approval – being right is very important.
- Tend to be leaders & achievers because you've been a *'little adult'* most of your growing up years.
- Usually like being in charge but have very high expectations for yourself and are hard-driving on yourself as well as on others.
- May respond to birth of the 2nd child by feeling unloved & overlooked.
- Strives to protect & help others.
- Often strives to please.
- Compliant 1stborns are conscientious, care-giving servants.
- Strong-willed 1stborns are hard-driving achievers who tend to be perfectionists.

c. The 2nd child

- Most strongly affected by the 1stborn in the family & the way they treated you.
- Rarely has parents' undivided attention.
- Tries to 'catch up' or overtake the 1stborn.
- Develops abilities that the 1stborn doesn't exhibit.
- If 1stborn is successful in many areas, may feel insecure & uncertain of own abilities.
- Feels unnoticed or unseen from attention if a 3rd child is born.
- May act out in rebellious ways to gain attention – may act negatively toward other siblings to gain emotionally needed attention.

d. The middle child

- Has neither the rights of the oldest nor the privileges of the youngest.
- Often feels that life is unfair.
- Feels unseen, unloved, and overlooked.
- Feels doesn't have a place of function in the family.
- Can become discouraged by being overlooked and turn to acting out negatively to gain attention or motivated to do something totally different than anyone else in the family in order to find your place.
- Usually are great mediators & develop good negotiation skills, due to constantly negotiating between the 1stborn & the lastborn.
- Often develop good people skills & have empathy for people because they've become accustomed to life being unfair.
- Usually more balanced in your thinking because of all the needed negotiating.

e. The lastborn child

- Tends to behave like an only child – feels that everyone else is bigger and more capable.



- Expects others to do things, make decisions, & take responsibility for them. Emotionally manipulates others to serve them.
- Can become critical, temperamental & impatient of others.
- Can become controlling & become the boss of the family in getting service & attention & your own way. Often makes the 1stborn their strongest ally against the middle child.
- May feel that they are not taken seriously when they have input to offer.
- May develop feelings of inferiority through comparison or lack of service from others.
- Tends to think in extremes. Likely because they were coddled and cuddled one minute and put down and made fun of the next minute.
- They love the limelight. They love attention. Tend to be the clown, the entertainer of the family.
- Can be more carefree and vivacious, as all their needs are met through others – so they are free to entertain.
- Are usually perceptive and good people-readers. Often excellent salesmen-type people.

6. God designed your spiritual temperament

- **Naturalists** – *Connect with God through nature*
- **Sensates** – *Connect with God through the 5 senses*
- **Traditionalists** – *Connect with God through rituals & traditions*
- **Ascetics** – *Connect with God in solitude & simplicity*
- **Activists** – *Connect with God through social activism*
- **Caregivers** – *Connect with God by showing love in practical ways*
- **Enthusiasts** – *Connect with God through celebratory worship*
- **Contemplatives** – *Connect with God through quiet adoration*
- **Intellectuals** – *Connect with God through intellectual study*

(See attached from *Sacred Pathways* by Gary Thomas)



Discovering your “Spiritual Temperament”

[How you ‘Connect’ with God]

Taken & Adapted from *Sacred Pathways* by Gary Thomas

On a scale of “1” to “5,” with five being *very true* and one being *not true at all*, record your answer in the space provided.

Section 1: [Naturalists – Connect with God through nature.]

- _____ 1. I feel closest to God when I’m surrounded by what he has made – the mountains, the forests, or the sea.
- _____ 2. I feel cut off if I have to spend too much time indoors, just listening to speakers or singing songs. Nothing makes me feel closer to God than being outside.
- _____ 3. I would prefer to worship God by spending an hour beside a small brook than by participating in a group service.
- _____ 4. If I could escape to a garden to pray on a cold day, walk through a meadow on a warm day, and take a trip by myself to the mountains on another day, I would be very happy.
- _____ 5. A book called *Nature’s Sanctuaries: A Picturebook* would be appealing to me.
- _____ 6. Seeing God’s beauty in nature is more moving to me than understanding new concepts, participating in a formal religious service, or participating in social causes.

- _____ *The total of all your answers for this section.*

The highest number of points possible is obviously thirty the higher your score, the stronger the dominance of this spiritual temperament in your life.

Remember, most of us have more than one spiritual temperament. Any score of fifteen or higher indicates a tendency toward this temperament.



Section 2: [Sensates – Connect with God through the 5 senses]

- _____ 1. I feel closest to God when I'm in a church that allows my senses to come alive – when I can see, smell, hear, and almost taste his majesty.
- _____ 2. I enjoy attending a “high church” service with incense and formal Communion or Eucharist.
- _____ 3. I'd have a difficult time worshiping in a church building that is plain and lacks a sense of awe or majesty. Beauty is very important to me, and I have a difficult time worshiping through second-rate Christian art or music.
- _____ 4. The words *colorful* and *aromatic* are very appealing to me.
- _____ 5. A book called *The Beauty of Worship* would be appealing to me.
- _____ 6. I would really enjoy using drawing exercises or art to improve my prayer life.

_____ ***The total of all your answers for this section.***

Section 3: [Traditionalists: Connect with God through rituals & traditions]

- _____ 1. I feel closest to God when I'm participating in a familiar form of worship that has memories dating back to my childhood. Rituals and traditions move me more than anything else.
- _____ 2. Individualism within the church is a real danger. Christianity is a corporate faith, and most of our worship should have a corporate expression.
- _____ 3. The words *tradition* and *history* are very appealing to me.
- _____ 4. Participating in a formal liturgy or prayer-book service, developing symbols that I could place in my car, home, or office, and developing a Christian calendar for our family to follow are activities that I would enjoy.
- _____ 5. A book titled *Symbolism and Liturgy in Personal Worship* would be appealing to me.
- _____ 6. I would really enjoy developing a personal rule (or ritual) of prayer.

_____ ***The total of all your answers for this section.***



Section 4: [Ascetics: Connect with God in solitude & simplicity]

- _____ 1. I feel closest to God when I am alone and there is nothing to distract me from focusing on his presence.
- _____ 2. I would describe my faith as more “internal” than “external.”
- _____ 3. The words *silence*, *solitude*, and *discipline* are very appealing to me.
- _____ 4. Taking an overnight retreat by myself at a monastery where I could spend large amounts of time alone in a small room, praying to God and studying his Word, and fasting for one or more days are all activities I would enjoy.
- _____ 5. I would enjoy reading the book *A Place Apart: Monastic Prayer and Practice for Everyone*.
- _____ 6. I would really enjoy spending time on a night watch, taking a short vow of silence, simplifying my life.

- _____ ***The total of all your answers for this section.***

Section 5: [Activists: Connect with God through social activism]

- _____ 1. I feel closest to God when I’m cooperating with him in standing up for his justice: writing letters to government officials and newspaper editors, picketing at an abortion clinic, urging people to vote, or becoming familiar with current issues.
- _____ 2. I get very frustrated if I see apathetic Christians who don’t become active. I want to drop everything else I’m doing and help the church overcome its apathy.
- _____ 3. The words *courageous confrontation* and *social activism* are very appealing to me.
- _____ 4. Activities like confronting a social evil, attending a meeting to challenge the new curriculum before the local school board, and volunteering on a political campaign are important to me.
- _____ 5. The book written by Frank Schaeffer, *A Time for Anger*, would be an important book for me to read.
- _____ 6. I would like to awaken the church from its apathy.

- _____ ***The total of all your answers for this section.***



Section 6: [Caregivers: Connect with God by showing love in practical ways.]

- _____ 1. I feel closest to God when I see him in the needy, the poor, the sick, and the imprisoned. I feel God's presence most strongly when I am sitting quietly beside the bed of someone who is lonely or ill or taking a meal to someone in need. You can count on me to offer a ride or volunteer for helping activities.
- _____ 2. I grow weary of Christians who spend their time singing songs while a sick neighbor goes without a hot meal or a family in need doesn't get help fixing their car.
- _____ 3. The words *service* and *compassion* are very appealing to me.
- _____ 4. I sense God's power when I am counseling a friend who has losdt a job, preparing meals for or fixing the car of a family in need, or spending a week at an orphanage in Mexico.
- _____ 5. A book entitled *99 Ways to Help Your Neighbor* would be very appealing to me.
- _____ 6. I would rather nurse someone to health or help someone repair their house than teach an adult Sunday school class, go on a prayer and fasting retreat, or take a lonely walk in the woods.

_____ ***The total of all your answers for this section.***

Section 7: [Enthusiasts: Connect with God through celebratory worship]

- _____ 1. I feel closest to God when my heart is sent soaring and I feel like I want to burst, worship God all day long, and shout out his Name. Celebrating God and his love is my favorite form of worship.
- _____ 2. God is an exciting God, and we should be excited about worshipping him. I don't understand how some Christians can say they love God, and then act like they're going to a funeral whenever they walk into church.
- _____ 3. The words *celebration* and *joy* are very appealing to me.
- _____ 4. I would enjoy attending a workshop on learning to worship through dance or attending several worship sessions with contemporary music. I expect that God is going to move in some unexpected ways.
- _____ 5. I would enjoy reading the book *The Mystery and Excitement of Walking with God*.
- _____ 6. I spend more money on music and worship tapes than on books.

_____ ***The total of all your answers for this section.***



Section 8 : [Contemplatives: Connect with God through quiet adoration]

- _____ 1. I feel closest to God when my emotions are awakened, when God quietly touches my heart, tells me that he loves me, and makes me feel like I'm his closest friend. I would rather be alone with God, contemplating his love, than participating in a formal liturgy or being distracted by a walk outside.
- _____ 2. The most difficult times in my faith are when I can't feel God's presence within me.
- _____ 3. The words *lover*, *intimacy*, and *heart* are very appealing to me.
- _____ 4. I really enjoy having thirty minutes of uninterrupted time a day to sit in quiet prayer and "hold hands" with God, writing love letters to him and enjoying his presence.
- _____ 5. I would enjoy reading *The Transforming Friendship*.
- _____ 6. When I think of God, I think of love, friendship, and adoration more than anything else.

_____ ***The total of all your answers for this section.***

Section 9: [Intellectuals: Connect with God through intellectual study]

- _____ 1. I feel closest to God when I learn something new about him that I didn't understand before. My mind needs to be stimulated. It's very important to me that I know exactly what I believe.
- _____ 2. I get frustrated when the church focuses too much on feelings and spiritual experience. Of far more importance is the need to understand the Christian faith and have proper doctrine.
- _____ 3. The words *concepts* and *truth* are very appealing to me.
- _____ 4. I feel close to God when I participate in several hours of uninterrupted study time – reading God's Word or good Christian books and then perhaps having an opportunity to teach (or participate in a discussion with) a small group.
- _____ 5. A book on church dogmatics would be appealing to me.
- _____ 6. I spend more money on books than music tapes.

_____ ***The total of all your answers for this section.***



C. In Your Redemption: You are a blessing & you have purpose

1. You are a blessing to Him

Ephesians 1:17-23 (The Living Bible)

*“I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you wisdom to see clearly and really understand who Christ is and all that He has done for you. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can see something of the future He has called you to share. I want you to realize that **God has been made rich because we who are Christ’s have been given to Him!** I pray that you will begin to understand how incredibly great His power is to help those who believe Him. It is that same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in heaven, far, far above any other king or ruler or dictator or leader. Yes, His honor is far more glorious than that of anyone else either in this world or in the world to come. And God has put all things under His feet and made Him the supreme Head of the church – which is His Body, filled with Himself, the Author and Giver of everything everywhere.”*

2. He has designed you for specific achievement

You don’t need to “accept yourself” – that’s a ‘given.’

You need to “accept God’s design” of you – accept that He has made you the way He has made you with a specific purpose in mind.

1 Thess 1:4 (Phillips Translation)

“We know that God not only loves you but has selected you for a special purpose.”

Eph. 2:10,22 (NIV)

“(10) For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (22) And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.”

1 Pet 5:10 (NIV)

“And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.”

D. In His Progressive Care: He’s watching over you

1. He thinks about you.

Psa. 139:17-18 (NIV)

“(17) How precious to me are your thought, O God! How vast is the sum of them! (18) Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.”



Isa. 49:16 (NIV)

*“See, I have engraved [**Heb. Like a tattoo**] you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.”*

2. He loves you.

Jer. 31:3 (NIV)

“The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: ‘I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.’”

3. He enjoys you.

Zeph. 3:17 (NIV)

*“The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take **great delight** in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.”*

Psa. 149:4 (NIV)

“For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation.”

4. He isn’t finished with you.

Phil. 1:6 (NIV)

“being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

5. He cares deeply about your concerns.

Psa. 138:8 (NIV)

“The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, O Lord, endures forever – do not abandon the works of your hands.”



IV. THE BREAKDOWN OF THE HUMAN IDENTITY

A. Generational/Cultural Breaking Points

Characteristics / Traits of Gen Z

1. High Anxiety

- Deeply worried about the present.
- Shocked by, but not surprised by, terrorist attacks throughout the world.
School shootings, bombings, etc. is what life has always included for them

2. Suicidal

- Teen mental health is deteriorating.
According to a new analysis, the number of US teens who felt “useless” & “joyless” grew 33% between 2010-2015
- There was a 23% increase in suicide attempts (2010-2015) (theconversation.com)

3. Entrepreneurial spirit

- Strong sense of independence
- 42% expect to work for themselves during their careers

4. Want to make a difference in the world

- **Creative thinkers**
- Want to take an active role in their communities & in their futures.
- “...MTV conducted a nationwide survey of 1,000 respondents born after the year 2000 to see how they would identify themselves if they had a choice, they came up with the self-important name “the Founders” --- as in needing to “found the new world,” rescuing it from the sins of the past.”

5. Wi-Fi enabled but Lonely – Known as the “Isolated Nation”

- They are the “internet-in-its-pocket” generation.
- William Bernstein (American financial theorist & neurologist) says: “Gen Z is the first generation that is the product of what Bernstein calls the 4th great communication revolution: the 1st was language itself, the 2nd was writing, the 3rd was the mechanization of writing, and the 4th was the electronic encoding of information.”
- **Currently**, teenagers spend approximately **9 hours a day** absorbing media.
- We are constantly connected to a global internet community.
- We now live in a world that is “always on.”
--92% report daily on-line use
--25% report going on-line “almost constantly”
- They are not married to any single social network.
- They are much **more private** about their personal information than Millennials. According to Pew Research, **57%** have never posted anything on-line due to privacy issues.
- They gravitate toward anonymous social media like *Snapchat*, *Secret*, & *Whisper* rather than *Facebook*.



- Only 15% prefer to interact with their friends via social media rather than face-to-face.

6. Independent/self-directed learners

- *“The ability to find whatever they’re after without the help of intermediaries, such as libraries, shops, or teachers,.....this has made them more **independent & self-directed** than generations before them.”*
- *But....”Like no generation before them, Gen Z faces a **widening chasm between wisdom & information.**”*
- *This sacrifices the education needed to interpret the contents of what is being read.*

7. Racially Diverse & Racially Blended

- Gen Z is the most racially diverse of any generation to date.
- Multi-racial children are the fastest growing youth group in the US.
 - *The # of black & white multi-racial children rose 134%
 - *The # of mixed white & Asian descent grew by 87%
 - *The # of black & white marriages grew 400% in the last 30 years
 - *The # of Asian & white marriages grew 1,000% in the last 30 years.
- **“The biological differences between ethnic groups – the ones that account for shared characteristics among members of a race – are minuscule.** Researchers involved with the Human Genome Project have stated, *‘If you ask what percentage of your genes is reflected in your external appearance, the basis by which we talk about race, the answer seems to be in the range of .01 percent.’* (*“Do Races Differ? Not Really, Genes Show,”* by Natalie Angier, *New York Times*, August 22, 2000) Thus, “the concept of race has no genetic or scientific basis.” (National Human Genome Research Institute, ‘White House, Office of the Press Secretary’ June 26, 2000) There is no deep unchanging essence that every member of an ethnic group shares. After putting together “a draft of the entire sequence of the human genome, ... researchers .. unanimously declared, there is only one race – the human race.” (article by Angier) An over-identification with ethnic identity can unnecessarily exacerbate racial division.” (*“A Practical Guide to Culture”* John Stonestreet & Brett Kunkle)

8. Sexually Fluid Attitudes

- In the minds of many people, modern-day Christianity no longer seems Christian. Among young Americans, the following words or phrases were offered as possible descriptions of Christianity.
 - Anti-homosexual (91%)
 - Judgmental (87%)
 - Hypocritical (85%)
 - Old-fashioned (78%)
 - Too involved in politics (75%)
 - Out of touch with reality (72%)
 - Insensitive to others (70%)
 - Boring (68%)



- Not accepting of other faith (64%)
- Confusing (61%)
- The idea of “**acceptance**” is interchangeable with “**affirmation**.”
- They are supportive of gay marriage & transgender rights.

9. Disappearing Childhood/KGOY (*Kids Getting Older Younger*)

- Millennials were raised by over-protective parents; Gen Z is being raised by under-protective parents.
- In the name of freedom & independence, Gen Z is growing up with the entire world within their vision. *In having access to the previously hidden fruit of adult information, the child is expelled from the garden of childhood.*” (Neil Postman, *The Disappearance of Childhood*)
 - Through the internet, we ask children to embrace mature issues, themes, & experiences long before they’re ready. They are being robbed of their innocence, their naivete, their ability to BE a child.
 - Today, 12-13 year olds are among the highest paid models in America, presented to us as knowing & sexually enticing adults.
 - It is virtually uncontested among sociologists that the behavior, language, attitudes, & desires – even the physical appearance of adults & children are becoming indistinguishable.
 - Kids mirror the larger culture, from reality TV to materialism. Who they see is who they want to be.
 - Research has clearly established that teens who watch movies or listen to music that glamorizes drinking, drug use, or violence tend to engage in those behaviors themselves. A 2012 study showed that movies also influence teens’ sexual attitudes & behaviors. A study in *Psychological Science* found that the more teens were exposed to sexual content in movies, the earlier they started having sex and the likelier they were to have casual, unprotected sex.
- **Moral views about pornography have shifted, especially in Gen Z.** They just don’t think it’s that bad. We have a porn epidemic right now.
 - 70% of 18-34 year olds regularly view pornography.
 - The average age to begin is 11 years old.
 - Porn is called “the wallpaper of our lives.” Many seek it out, but even if they’re not looking for porn, porn is looking for them. “The question,” Christian apologist Josh McDowell says, “is not ‘Will my kids see porn?’ but ‘How will they handle it when they do?’”
 - **Lie #1 about porn: “Porn is harmless.”**
 - * **Porn is addictive.** Porn actually changes the physical structure of the brain, similar to drug & alcohol addiction. For the undeveloped brain of a young person, the addictive consequences can be lifelong.
 - * **Porn has serious personal ramifications.** It distorts attitudes about sexuality & leads to increased sexual permissiveness & risky sexual behaviors. It also decreases marital satisfaction & breaks down trust in marriage. It leaves people with perpetual feelings of shame & guilt.



Early viewing of pornography among children leads to higher-risk sexual activity, sex addictions, & sexual violence.

Boys who are exposed to porn are 3 times more likely to engage in oral sex & intercourse 2 years after exposure than non-exposed boys.

Young girls exposed to porn are twice as likely to engage in oral sex & 1/2 times more likely to have intercourse 2 years later.

- **Lie #2 about porn: "Porn is a personal matter, & it's no one's business what people do in their private lives."**

***The consequences porn aren't limited to the individual. Porn is dehumanizing, treating others like objects to be used for the gratification of others.**

***Porn fuels sex trafficking and leads to increased violence & sexual aggression, as well as the exploitation of women & children.**

*** Porn also produces broken marriages & families.**

"There is no dignity when the human dimension is eliminated from the person. In short, the problem with pornography is not that it shows too much of the person, but that it shows far too little." (Pope John Paul II, *The Theology of the Body*)

10. Shrinking Attention Spans

- The average attention span has dropped from 12 seconds in 2000 to just **8.25 seconds** in 2015. That's a 25% drop in just over a decade. To put that into perspective, **the average attention span of a goldfish is 9 seconds.**
 - *Percent of teens who forget major details of close friends & relatives: 25
 - *Percent of people who forget their own birthdays from time to time: 7
 - *Average number of times per hour an office worker checks their email inbox: 30
- ***"Gen Z takes in information instantaneously & loses interest just as fast."* [Internet browsing statistics]**
 - *Average length watched of a single internet video: 2.7 minutes
 - *Percent of page views that last less than 4 seconds: 17
 - Percent of page views that last more than 10 minutes: 4
 - Percent of words read on web pages with 111 words or less: 49
 - Percent of words read on an average (593 words) web page: 28
- **Gen Z 'cannot' read in silence or listen to stories in length due to the 'world of endless distraction' around them.**
 - *A love of reading is what increases concentration & promotes "deep thinking."**

11. They are more open to spiritual experiences.

- "Pitirim Sorokin, the founder of Harvard University's department of sociology, argued that the pendulum of civilization generally swings in one of two directions: **the ideational & the sensate.**
- **The ideational civilization is more theological & spiritual,**
- **while the sensate culture is more rational or scientific.**
- Sorokin contended that the classic ideational period was the medieval. From the Enlightenment forward, we lived in a sensate world. Sorokin's thesis rings true. Now in our



struggle with what the modern world has given to us – or, more accurately, taken away – there seems to be a swing back toward the ideational.” (Pitirim Sorokin, *Social and Cultural Dynamics*, 2010)

- “We live in a world that is more open than ever to spiritual things. Not defined religion, mind you, but spirituality. And specifically, the supernatural. A keenly felt emptiness, resulting from a secularized, materialistic world, has led to a hunger for something more, but many are unable to go further than the search for *an experience*. As a result, an extraterrestrial will serve as well as an angel, a spiritualist as well as a minister. Borrowing from the late historian Christopher Dawson, we have a new form of secularism that offers “religious emotion divorced from religious belief.” So God is out, but ghosts are in.” (Meet Generation Z, James Emery White)
- **Christianity is very much a faith in the supernatural.**
- **People are finding that signs and wonders, in their proper biblical place, penetrate deeply secular minds.**

12. The most defining characteristic of Gen Z is that it is the first generation in the West to be raised in a post-Christian context. It is the first post-Christian generation.

- The younger the generation, the most post-Christian it is.
- 78% still believe in the existence of God, but less than ½ (41%) attend weekly services, & only 8% would cite a religious leader as a role model.
- The largest single religious category in the *Harvard Crimson*’s ‘by the numbers’ survey says that 21.3% are “agnostic.”

*An agnostic is a person who believes that nothing is known or can be known of the existence or nature of God or of anything beyond material phenomena, a person who claims neither faith nor disbelief in God.

- **This means that they are not against Christianity, but Christianity is no longer the primary shaping force of their values & belief system.** (Below quotes from *Meet Generation Z*, James Emery White)
- “I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.” Mt. 16:18 TMB
- “In writing about the teaching of Jesus, John Stott noted that ‘if the church realistically accepted his standards and values...and lived by them, it would be the alternative society he always intended it to be, and would offer to the world an authentic Christian counter-culture.’”
- “Those two ideas – church & counterculture – lie at the heart of reaching a post-Christian generation. The challenge is, first to understand the ideas and, second, to engage them. Let’s start with understanding, for if there is any doctrine that is ignored or grossly misunderstood by Christ followers – at least among evangelical Christians in the United States – it is the doctrine of the church.”



- *“During the calamitous 12th century, it was written “Never before had there been greater wretchedness in the country.....And they said openly that Christ and his saints slept.” (Peterborough Chronicle, 12th century)*
- *One of the marks of Generation Z is that they are being raised, by and large, by Generation X – a generation that was warned repeatedly not to become “helicopter” parents (i.e., always hovering over their children). As a result, Generation Z has been given more space & more independence than any other generation. This means that Generation Z is very self-directed.”(Meet Generation Z: Forget Everything You Learned about Millennials,” Sparks and Honey, 2014)*
- *“One might be tempted to say the same of our own day, particularly in relation to how we are shaping Generation Z. There are many ways to characterize them, but in essence, two headlines must not be missed. **First, they are lost.** They do not even have a memory of the gospel. The degree of spiritual illiteracy is simply stunning. **Second, they are leaderless.** Little if any direction is coming from their families, and even less from their attempts to access guidance from the internet. The questions I hear from men and women in their teens and twenties borders on the heartbreaking. How do I break free from pornography? How do I be a husband/wife? How do I parent? How do I pray? How do I...? The list of life’s most foundational questions is virtually endless, and Generation Z is asking each and every one. **They have endless amounts of information but little wisdom, and virtually no mentors.**”*



B. Personal Breaking Points

1. Abuse from within:

a. Childhood disappointments

- Hanging onto hurts -- everything from hand-me-down tricycles to neglect to abuses
- **Eph. 4:32** (NIV) *“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”*
- **Mt. 18:34** (NIV) *“In anger his master turned him over to the jailers until he should pay back all he owed.”* (KJV) *“...**tormentors**...”*

b. Imagined abuses

- Fears from feeding on humanistic, worldly perspectives
- **Col. 2:8** (NIV) *“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.”*
- Comparison plague
- *“I’m not beautiful!”* – define what is “beautiful.”
- *“I’m dumb!”* – define what is “intelligent.”
- **2 Cor. 10:12** (NIV) *“We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.”*
- Vain imaginations
- *“I am not what I think I am; I am not what you think I am; I am what I think you think I am.”*
- **2 Cor. 10:5** (NIV) *“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”*

c. Unbroken Bondages

- **Secret sins** – i.e. smoking, drinking, drugs, lust, sexual obsessions, eating disorders...
Keeping them secret gives them power over you.
- **It may be impossible to be completely “pure,” but it’s NOT impossible to be Godly.** We are redeemed & purified by Christ. We are all in the process of maturing in our Godliness.
- **Heb. 12:1** (NIV) *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”*

“entangles” = habitually clings to, to hem in on all sides

2. Abuse from without:



Remember: *Your self-image comes from God. [You're the gold IN the necklace, not just the necklace. You're the boat twice-owned.]*

- a. Mental & verbal abuse: constant berating in the home; bullying
- b. Sexual abuse: feel unclean, unclear on definition of virginity
- c. Social status extremes: from riches to poverty or from poverty to riches; growing up with one standard and changing that in adulthood

i.e. Science experiment: college students given white mice to run through maze and then student teachers with students (1/2 'slow learners'). Each came up to the given level of expectation.

Lesson: Others opinions are NOT always accurate.

If you look for your identity outside yourself, you'll be in bondage to others'

3. The Spiral Down of Abuses from Within & Without

Belief/Hope/Expectation

Hurt/Wounding/Disappointment

Anger/Resentment/Bitterness

Poor Judgment/Wrong Decisions

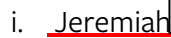
Separation/Estrangement/Awkwardness

Total Life Affected (*Spirit, Soul, Body*)

Pro. 17:22 *"a broken spirit dries the bones"*



V. THE RESTORATION PROCESS



AGREE WITH GOD'S PERSPECTIVE!

Ex. 4:14 “You are to be My spokesman.” “But....” (3 times!)

- ‘You can come ‘easy’ or you can come ‘hard,’ but you WILL come.’
- ‘You can obey willingly or unwillingly, but you will obey. I am God, NOT you.’
- ‘You can embrace the call or reject it, but fulfillment only comes with obedience.’
- Rejecting the call is rejecting the Caller.
- Rejecting the call is PRIDE. It says, “I know better than You do God.” God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble! [Jas. 4:6; 1 Pet.5:5] We must agree with God! Humility is agreeing with God, regardless of our function.

“Moses” = *drawn out one; rescued one*

c. Jacob

Gen. 32:22-30 He struggled with the Lord & could not receive a blessing until he CONFESSED his perspective of who he was.

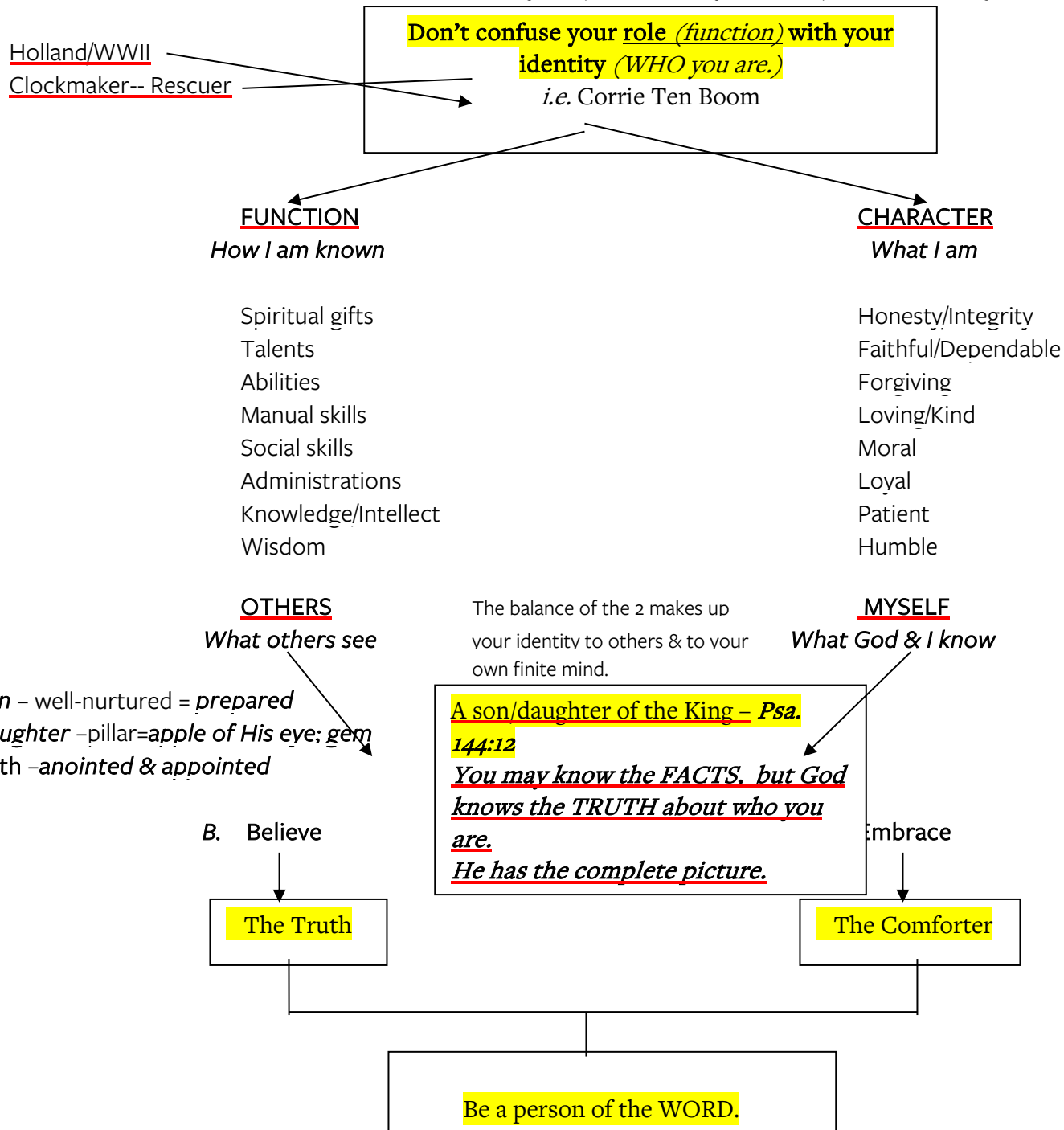
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After his confession the name change came:

"Israel" = prince

WHO ARE YOU? – NOT WHAT are you (a doctor, lawyer, server), but WHO are you?



1. The Word of God says:



- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| a. <i>Gen. 1:26</i> | I am made in His image. |
| b. <i>Job 10:8, Psa. 100:3</i> | I am His child. |
| c. <i>Psa. 139</i> | I am in His thoughts. |
| d. <i>Psa. 139</i> | He designed how I would look. |
| e. <i>Psa. 144:12</i> | I am His son-well-nurtured plant. |
| f. <i>Psa. 144:12</i> | I am His daughter-cornerstone. |
| g. <i>Isa. 32:1,7</i> | I am called by His name. |
| h. <i>Jer. 31:3</i> | I am loved with His everlasting love. |
| i. <i>Eph. 1:4</i> | I am chosen by Him. |
| j. <i>Eph. 2:10</i> | I am His workmanship. |
| k. <i>Jn. 15:3, 1 Cor.6:11, 1 Pet. 1:22</i> | I am clean by His Word. |
| l. <i>1 Thess.1:4</i> | He has selected me for a purpose. |
2. David
1 Sam. 16:7 When God called him as a youth, God saw his heart.
Psa. 109:22-31 David called to the Lord when his heart was wounded. God challenged him to remember who he called him to be [a king] in the midst of his suffering.
3. The Shulamite
Song of Sol. 4:12-16 – “a garden enclosed”
Garden = private, protected garden
Her call for the wind = to allure him & stir his memory of her, but there was a wall separating them. The wall was for protection, but it had become a barrier to their intimacy & delight.
- We need to call on the Holy Spirit to bring down the walls in our lives that separate us from intimacy with Him.
4. Jesus
- He has close friends such as Peter, James, and John, but He withdrew regularly from **everyone** to get His needs met by the FATHER, to be strengthened in His inner man. Perhaps he did this to be reminded “*You’re My son.*”
- This freed Him to BE a friend rather than to EXPECT friendship.
- Don’t look for your identity to come from your friends.
If you look for your identity **outside** of yourself, you’ll be in **bondage** to others’ opinions.
- “Never doubt in darkness what God has shown you in the light.” (*Beyond the Next Mountain*, re: 1st missionary to East Indian Mountains – 1st convert – father of Rochunga Podiate – Rochunga’s wife made this statement to him in a time of discouragement.)
-



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graph TD; A[C. Give] --> B[Forgiveness to those who need it, not just those who 'deserve' it.]; C[Guard] --> D[Your heart and your future]; B --> E[Be a person of MEEKNESS. Strength under control [a stallion under the control of His master]]; D --> E;
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C. Give

and

Guard

Forgiveness to those who **need** it, not just those who *'deserve'* it.

Your heart and your future

Be a person of MEEKNESS.
Strength under control
[a stallion under the control of His master]

- 2 Cor. 5:18-20** (NIV) “All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us **the ministry of reconciliation**: (19) that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.. (20) We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us....”

- Mt. 18:34** (turned over to tormentors – *mentioned previously*)

- ## 2. Jephthah

Tob = headache from drunkenness

Captain – one who goes to the front lines.

Jepthah had to forgive to do that!

- ### Gen. 42 Joseph's moment of forgiveness

"You meant it for evil, but God allowed it for good."

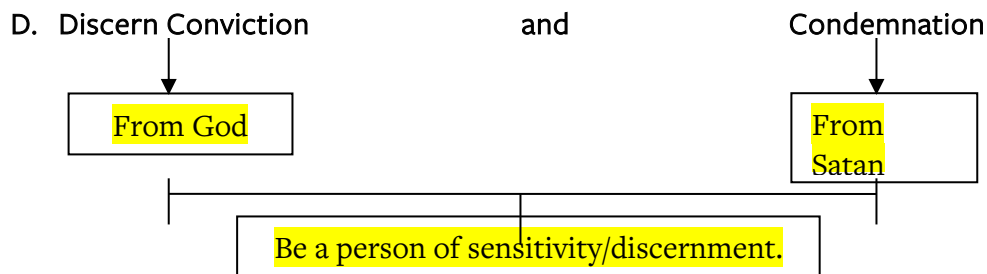


4. Leah

Gen. 29:31 “When *the Lord saw* that Leah was hated, He opened her womb...”

Checkpoint for “hardened heart”/“guarded heart”

- Can you worship freely?
- Do you have a ‘walking/talking’ relationship with the Lord?
- Do you have a relationship of trust with the Lord?
- Are you willing to use counsel for confirmation of your thoughts?



1. Discerning between conviction and condemnation:

- Conviction = always specific & leads to practical steps of help up & out of the situation.
- Condemnation = always general & leads to thoughts of despair.

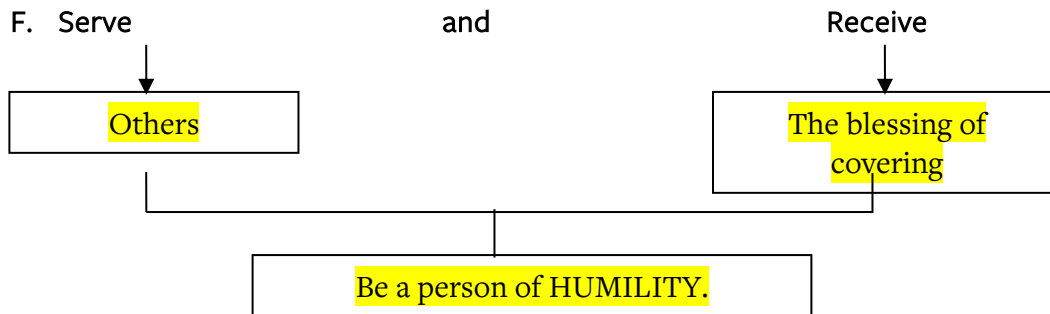
2. Confession of sin – exposing the **secret** sin

- Keeping them **secret** gives them power over you. Confession brings it to the light & breaks the power of bondage!
- **Pro. 28:13** “He that covers his sins will not prosper: but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”
- **1 Jn. 1:9** “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

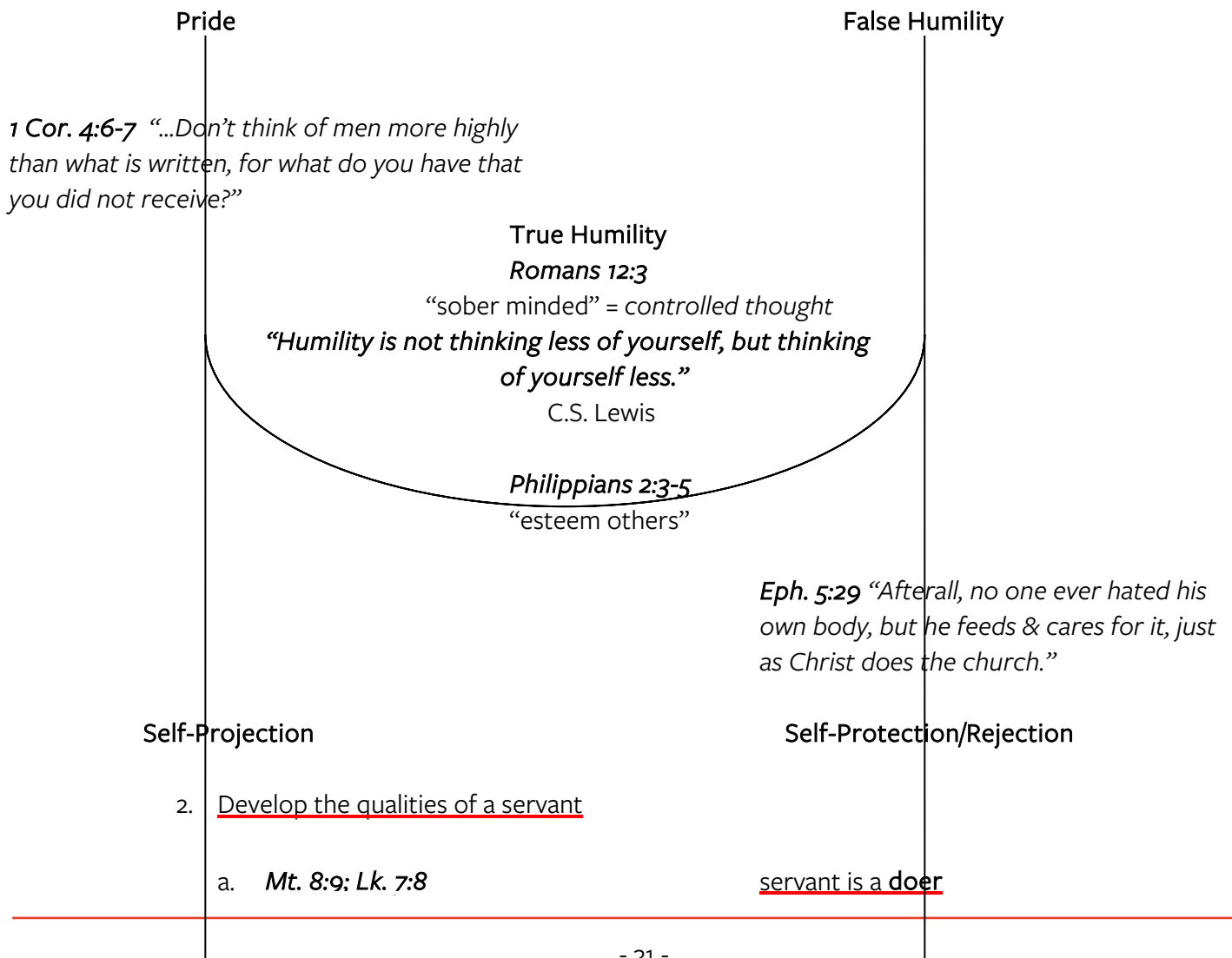




To leave the comfort of her past & to cleave to His purpose in the present & in the future,
even though the purpose was not obvious immediately.



1. Walk in true humility.





- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| b. <i>Mt. 10:24</i> | <u>servant is humble</u> |
| c. <i>Mt. 24:45; Lk. 12:43</i> | <u>servant is faithful & wise</u> |
| d. <i>Mt. 25:21</i> | <u>servant is good & faithful</u> |
| e. <i>Mk. 9:35</i> | <u>servant is last</u> |
| f. <i>Lk. 14:22</i> | <u>servant is obedient</u> |
| g. <i>Jn. 12:26</i> | <u>servant follows his master</u> |
| h. <i>1 Cor. 7:20-24</i> | <u>servant has pure motivation</u> |
| i. <i>Col. 4:12</i> | <u>servant prays for others</u> |

3. Respond to God-given opportunities to serve [Serving is an integral part of a restored/healthy identity. Sometimes we see ourselves reflected through others, but we must not serve to receive accolades.]

- a. Those of your “household”

- *Pro. 31:15* – “...rises while it is yet night”
- *Gen 29* – Leah = tender-eyed; married

She served in loyalty even though Jacob loved Rachel.

1st – Reuben = Behold a son

2nd – Simeon = Hearing

3rd – Levi = Joined

4th – Judah = Praise [line to Christ +2 more sons & a daughter]

- **Family** – i.e. Mrs. Rollins & 5 sons

- b. Those over you in the Lord – spiritual covering/mentors

- *Mt. 13:12* (NIV) “Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.”
- *1 Kgs. 19:19-21* – Elisha – After 10 years of serving, he received the double portion.

2 Kgs. 2:9-14 – “My father, my father...”

Value & appreciate the mantle-drop!

- i.e. the woman who prayed faithfully for her pastor, as the church grew – then she asked on her deathbed, “Please find someone to take my place...”



c. Those in your local church

- **Joshua** served the people in the wilderness for 40 years, as well as serving Moses. He received Moses' anointing, his own mountain in the Promised Land, victory as a leader – he conquered 6 nations & 33 leaders.
- **Bro. Wency** – Wenceslaus Farlow – (the janitor & ran the overhead projector on Sun. mornings) The grade school principal asked a 1st grader *“Who do you think is the most important person in Bible Temple?”* (He thought the child would say the “Sr. Pastor.” The church was approximately 600-700 in attendance at that time.) The child said *“Bro. Wency!”* When asked *“Why Bro. Wency?”* He said, **“Well, he gets to run the overhead projector on Sun. mornings, AND he has all the keys!”**
- **Servants get the keys to the kingdom!**

d. The dying world

- **Ac. 9:36-43** – Dorcas – widows & needy children
- **Jan** – “Will you ever leave Him?”
- **Chicago wealthy Christian woman re: street child** – “Lady, are you God’s wife?”
- **Sociology student** – preparing to write his doctoral thesis – He lived with the Navajo native Americans on a reservation for 1 year. He got close to the grandmother of the tribe. He did things with her every day. Neither knew how to speak the other’s language. When he was leaving at the end of the year, she came out to the truck and took his face in her hands & said, **“I like me best when I’m with you.”**

Do we make others feel better about themselves when they’ve been around us – around the Christ in us?

e. The many opportunities:

- **Teaching** – **Col. 3:16; Titus 2:4-5; Ro. 16:3**
Priscilla & Aquilla taught Paul & Apollos
- **Prayer** – **Ac. 1:13-14**
Women prayed with disciples in the upper room
- **Evangelism** – **Mt. 28:8-10; Jn. 4:4-42**
Matthew – 2 Mary’s; *John* – woman at the well
- **Hospitality** – **Ac. 16:14-15**



Lydia got saved & then opened her home to the apostles to stay

- **Writing – Rev. 1:2**
John the Beloved
- **Worship/Music – Ex. 15:20-21**
Miriam
- **Counseling – Titus 2:4-5**
Older teach the younger
- **Weddings – Jn. 2:1**
Jesus' mother shows concern for wedding details
- **Children's Ministry – Mt. 19:14**
Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me."
- **Gifts of the Spirit – 1 Cor. 12:4-11**

VI. Summation – The Facts of the Fruit

A. The fruit of a broken & regressive self-image

- a. Unresolved Conflicts: *Rejection by others*
- b. Fear: *Rejection of self*
 - a. Believe the lie
 - b. Battle of the extremes:
 - False humility = "I have no worth."
 - Pride = "I'm the greatest."
- c. Resentment & Bitterness: *Rejection from others*
 - a. Unable to hear the Father's voice (Jesus/Phil.2—"attentively listening," Leah -- Simeon/Gen.29 – "hearing")
 - b. Unable to distinguish conviction from condemnation
- d. Anger: *Rejection to others &/or to self*
Unable to "esteem others" (Phil. 2) because of intense need to focus on self
- e. Death: *Violence to self &/or to others*
 - Murder &/or suicide
 - No lasting fruit



B. The fruit of a healed & progressive self-image

- i. Unresolved conflicts: *Rejection by others*
We all face disappointment at some time in life.
- ii. Issue forgiveness: *Release others to the Father's judgment*
- iii. Controlled self-thoughts: *Thoughts in control* (Ro. 12:3)
- iv. Service & love extended: *Esteeming others* (Phil. 2)
- v. Life: *Lasting fruit*
- vi. Reproduction: *Leaving a legacy*

