

Identity

Understanding of oneself in relation to God, others, and the world



Identity; who we are as a person. Ask a thousand people “who are you?” and you will receive nearly a thousand different answers. Even Christians will answer the question in many different ways. Yet, the answer to this question will tell you a lot about a person and our own answer to the question will affect our lives, marriage and all of our relationships dramatically. I spent the most of my first 45 years of life trying to figure out who I was, including 15 years as a “born again Christian.” I would have had a difficult time even answering the question, until... Until someone told me that I was not a “sinner saved by grace.” That I was a saint, a beloved child of God; that I was chosen, holy and dearly loved by the God of the universe. It took a while, but as I took on *that* identity, sin became less of a problem in my life and I was better able to walk out my faith in Jesus Christ and live for Him. Oh yes, I still sin and fall short of God’s glory, but my life is *so* much better!

And, my marriage is *so* much better! I don’t want to sin and I don’t want to treat my wife badly, because that is *not* who I am! Sure, I didn’t ever want to treat my wife badly, but it just sort of came naturally. When I viewed myself a sinner, being defensive, aggravated, prideful, and self-centered was a part of that identity. As a beloved child of God it is more natural for me to be loving, humble, compassionate, kind, caring, and even patient because *in Christ*, I *can* be all of those things. As I live for Christ and die to self, my wife desires also to live as Christ and die to self. We are loving each other the way Christ loves His people. Yes, we mess up sometimes, but where it would take days or longer to straighten things out, now it is usually fixed in minutes.

Friends, if you call Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior, you *are* a new creation. You *are* God’s workmanship. You *are* a son or daughter of God. You *are* chosen, holy and dearly loved. And as you walk in Christ, depending on Him every day and *practice* living out your Christianity, it *will* positively affect your life, marriage and family. Because *practice* makes... *permanent*!

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* www.fortifiedmarriages.com

The *Fortified Marriages Manual and Workbook* is a great tool to help couples connect and walk out their identities *in Christ* together.

Book to check out:

Victory Over the Darkness by Neil Anderson

Also, check out his website Freedom in Christ Ministries; www.ficm.org