

Named and Claimed Series

Day 1: Identity Theft – When We Forget Who We Are

Because the enemy can't steal our seat - but he'll try to make us forget we're in it.

Key Scripture:

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:12–13 (ESV)

Context: Why Identity Is Everything

Before Jesus performed any miracles, preached any sermons, or called any disciples, the Father spoke these words over Him: "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17, NIV). Identity was spoken before activity, and in the very next chapter, in the wilderness, Satan said: "If you are the Son of God..." (Matthew 4:3)

From the very beginning, identity has been under attack. The same is true for us. If the enemy can confuse our identity, he can:

- Shake our confidence
- Drain our authority
- Silence our voice
- Steal our joy

That's why we start this series here. Because identity is not a feeling - it's a spiritual truth. And it's time we stop forgetting who we are.

Why this matters now

Because we are living in an identity crisis. We are more connected, but less secure. Culture is louder, but clarity is rarer. If we don't know who we are in Christ, someone else will try to name us. If we don't know our worth, we'll settle for approval over truth. And if we don't claim our name, the enemy will try to rename us. We can't walk in authority while questioning our identity.

Why Do We Struggle with our Identity?

Even though the Word of God clearly tells us who we are, many of us still find it hard to believe, live, or walk confidently in that truth. Here's why identity doesn't always come easy:

1. **We've been renamed by people who didn't create us.** At some point, someone spoke something over us that stuck. Words like difficult, lazy, too loud, not good enough, or too much - and they started to shape how we saw ourselves. People gave us labels, but only God has the authority to name us.
2. **We link identity to performance.** When we get things right, we feel loved. When we mess up, we feel disqualified. But identity in Christ isn't based on how well we behave, it's based on grace, not perfection.
3. **We compare constantly.** We measure ourselves by someone else's calling, appearance, gifting, or life stage. Comparison whispers, "You're behind," "You're not enough," or "You're not like them." But comparison is a thief - it robs us of confidence and clarity.
4. **We've forgotten what God already said.** When we don't stay rooted in the Word, we start to forget the truth. And when we forget the truth, we fall for the lie. Identity must be reminded daily, especially when life tries to shake it.
5. **We carry pain that made us question our worth.** Rejection, abandonment, betrayal, and trauma don't just hurt - they distort. But pain doesn't get the final say.

Healing starts when we stop hiding and start remembering who we are in Him. We won't live like children of God if we're still carrying the names people gave us in the past. It's time to lay them down. It's time to pick up the name He wrote for us before the world said a word.

Verse Breakdown: John 1:12-13 (ESV)

- **"To all who did receive him..."** This identity is open to all - not earned by status or performance.
- **"...who believed in his name..."** Our identity begins with belief - not behaviour. It's based on who we trust, not what we've done.
- **"...he gave the right to become children of God..."** This is a legal, spiritual right. We don't hope to be His - we are His.
- **"but... of God."** Our identity isn't based on what people say. We are born of God.

If God gave us our identity, no one else gets to define it.

Key Themes


- God defines our identity, not people, pain, or performance.
- Our identity is received, not earned - it's based on grace.
- The enemy attacks our identity because it unlocks our authority.
- False labels must be broken so truth can take root.
- We are children of God, chosen, known, and spiritually reborn.
- Identity must be reinforced daily through truth, not comparison.
- We cannot walk in authority if we doubt who we are in Christ.

Practical Application: Reclaiming Our Identity

- Write down lies we've believed about ourselves, then cross them out with truth from Scripture.
- Start each morning this week by declaring: "We are children of God."
- Refuse to shrink back. We've been chosen to take up space.
- Don't wait to feel it - believe it. We are not what we feel. We are who He says.
- Guard our identity - from people, pain, and performance-based thinking..

Prayer

Father, thank You for calling me Yours. Help me to silence every false label and believe what You've spoken over me. Remind me daily that my name, my worth, and my identity are found in You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

 **Final Takeaway:** Our identity is not shaped by people's opinions or past mistakes. It's rooted in Christ - secure, unchanging, and spoken by God Himself. We don't need to chase it or earn it. We need to believe it, claim it, and live from it.