

# Where Is Our Identity?

Many struggle with identity and I believe it is because we have turned away from what God intended us to be and have followed after the lustful things of this world which dictate what you should be like.

You have to be of this stature and size, have these features, and look like a size 8-10 for ladies, and for men, you must look like Arny and be macho looking with a 6 pack abdomen and so on. It has become more superficial and has focussed on physical appearance, fashion, and looks, rather than on who you are.

I think we are all caught up in this hype to some degree and if we are not careful our identity will be aligned to what the fashion world says, rather than what God has to say. I want to blow way this ideology that you are what the fashion world says you are, You are what God says you are.

Here's the first thing we got to understand re ID

**1. You are Made in the image and likeness of God** (*Gen 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make a man —someone like ourselves,\* to be the master of all life upon the earth and in the skies and in the seas."*)

God put his personal touch on us. He breathed his breath into Adam. Human beings are unique among all creation.

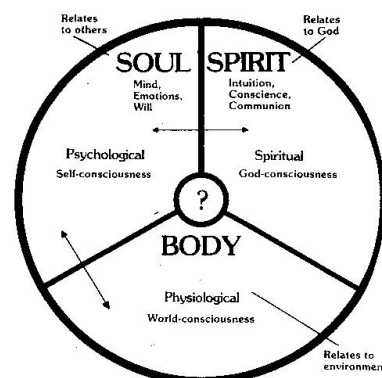
God created each species of the plant and animal kingdoms "according to its [own] kind" (Genesis 1:11-12, Genesis 1:21, Genesis 1:24-25), but human beings, Genesis 1:26 essentially tells us, were patterned after the "God kind." The image of God is what makes man unique among all His physical creation. This is what renders men, women and children truly human.

## Spirit-Soul-Body

We have the physical body which contains the soul [mind(think)emotions(feel) and will(act)] which relates to one another and the spirit which relates to God.

We were made to resemble God not in the flesh and blood because God is spirit and Adams body mirrored the perfect life that God intended Adam to live without sickness or pain or suffering and not subjected to death. God created us differently to the animal world. Man has the ability to use the Spiritual side to commune with God.

Contained in the likeness of God is the ability to think and be emotional and have moral and social standards.



We have the ability to reason and to choose which is a reflection of God's intellect and freedom. Morally, humanity was created in righteousness and perfect innocence, a reflection of God's holiness. 1Peter1:15 tells us to *be holy as God is holy*.

I think the biggest area humanity is suffering in is moral standards which is being eroded day by day. What was sacred and moral 20 years ago isn't any more. Humanity are involved in depraved sexual immorality which is rife and no body seems to care. It has come to be accepted as the norm.

Having sex before marriage has become a norm, living together has become a norm. Promiscuity is a norm. Polygamy is normal, same sexual relationships is a norm. So we can see how far we have fallen away from what God intended for us when he created us.

Through all of this, many have lost their identity because the devil has twisted that identity to be something false and not of God.

Today ID is a big issue. Very young children are being encouraged to explore gender and change gender if they don't feel they are in the right gender. I don't think God made a mistake when he made humanity. I don't think there is an asexual human being. You can see how the enemy has stolen what God intended for good to identify a man and woman to that of non gender ID.

Let's not get caught up in this but let's teach our children who they are in God and that they were made perfect and there was no mistake when God made them. Let's appreciate who we are, men as men and women as women.

Tell yourself, *"I am made in God's image and likeness, I am not confused about my gender or orientation, I am not confused about who I am, I will not give in to the lies of the enemy who tries to destroy all that God called good"*. In Genesis 1:31 God saw everything he created and called it good. You are not someone with a mistaken ID.

Socially, humanity was created for fellowship with God and with each other a reflection of God's nature and his love..

God was so concerned that man was alone and he made woman as a companion for fellowship (Gen2:18). Every time someone marries, makes a friend, hugs a child, or attends church, he or she is demonstrating the fact that we are made in the likeness of God - for fellowship.

Part of being made in God's image is that Adam had the capacity to make free choices. Although they were given a righteous nature, Adam and Eve made an evil choice to rebel against their Creator. In so doing, they marred the image of God within themselves, and passed that damaged likeness on to all of their descendants.

*(Rom 5:12-thru one man sin entered and death thru sin and spread to all men)*. Today, we still bear the image of God, but we also bear the scars of sin. Mentally, morally, socially, and physically, we show the effects of sin.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 NLT *It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, 22 and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first instalment that guarantees everything he has promised us.*

The good news is that when God redeems an individual, He begins to restore the original image of God, creating a “*new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness*” (Eph 4:24).

That redemption is only available by God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ as our Saviour from the sin that separates us from God (Eph 2:8-9). Through Christ, we are made new creations in the likeness of God (2Cor5:17).