**Edward Christian Church Identity: *Who Are You?* June 20, 2016 pt1**

**What** is your **real identity**? What **is** an **identity**? **Is** **identity** something you are **born** with? Is it **changeable** or **never** able to **change**?

Ever since **Adam** made his **choice** to **disobey** God in the Garden, he and **all** his **descendants** have been **identified** with **sin**. His **declaration** of **independence** explains the **rebellious** nature we each **inherited**.

**Because** we were **born** into the family of **Adam**, we **all** possess the **natural** bent to live **self-centered** lives. **Yet** with a **heart** of **love**, the heavenly **Father** has persistently **sought** to draw each person with His **offer** of **adoption**. He **desires** to **adopt** us into **His** family and to **give** us a new **nature**... the **same** moral **nature** of His **Son**. **When** you become a **Christian** by receiving Jesus as your **personal** Lord and **Savior**, you also **receive** a **new** identity. **As** a child of **God**, your **old** sin **nature** has been **exchanged** for a **new** identity in Christ!

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

 **Definitions**

If someone **asks**, "Who **are** you?" what would you **say**? Many of us **describe** ourselves by **what** we do, such as "I am a **school teacher**," or "I am an **accountant**." Others study **genealogy** tracing their **roots** to determine **who** they are through **family lineage**. But **name tags** will not be sufficient when a **life or death** situation forces you to **look** at the **core** of your **being** and **find** out who you **really** are in **relation** to the **One** who **created** you!

**A. What Is Your Identity?**

* Identity is **based** on the distinguishing **characteristics**
* Identity **involves** both your **inner** character and your **outer** conduct
* The word ***identity*** comes from the Latin word ***idem***, which means ***"same"***
* Your **visible** conduct **should** consistently **reflect** your **inner** character, **forming** your **identity**

*"As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man."* -**Proverbs 27:19**

*"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb."* -**Psalm 139:13**

**B. What Is the Difference between Your Inner Identity and Your Outer Identity?**

* The **Visible** You
* How you are **known** by **others**
	+ **Personality**
	+ **Masks,** Pretenses**, Outer** Appearance
	+ **Actions**

*"Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right." -***Proverbs 20:11**

* The **Real** You
* How you are **known** by **God**
	+ Basic **Nature**
	+ **Character**
	+ **Value** System

*"All a man's ways seem right to him, but the Lord weighs the heart." -***Proverbs 21:2**

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