

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** (Reputation)
 - **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
