

PERSISTENCE OF IDENTITY

Who do you think you are? Where did you get that idea? Is it true? How do you know?

We are inundated with ideas about who we are. We hear labels, adjectives, and other descriptions. They may be intentional or accidental, prophetic proclamations or word curses, from friendly or hateful sources. Why do some identifiers persist?

Who do you think you are?	Where did you get that idea?	Is it true?

You are who God says you are. He is the only accurate judge, He looks at the heart and all His words are true. Release the false labels and embrace your identity in Christ.

How I see myself.

- Whom I fear - protection
- Whom I trust - authority
- Whom I love - devotion

God gives us a new heart when He transforms us, and we can accept this new identity by having our mind renewed. The old personality, labels, and history are redeemed and we are free to be the person God created us to be. Do not be tempted to slip back into the old and comfortable way of being but embrace your new life and all its possibilities.

How others see me.

- Fear
 - Self-protection
 - Of the unknown
- Trust
 - Power
 - Control
- Love
 - Relational leverage
 - Contract vs. Covenant
 - Misaligned devotion

How I see others.

Human nature resists change. Others may not accept your new identity when it challenges their paradigms and coping strategies. Authentic relationships encourage each person to live according to their identity in Christ. Do not allow others to force you into a false identity because of their pain or conflict. You cannot be reconciled to the sin nature in others. You can stand firm in your new identity because you are who God says you are.