

# The Trellis Bible Study Guide

**Title:** Identity

**DATE:** September 26, 2020, Week 3

**Focal Passages:** Exodus 3:1-6 & 11-1; John 14:15-21; Colossians 1:27

**Focal Story:** Moses and the Burning Bush

**Focal Question:** Who am I?

## **Bible Study Content Outline:**

**Who is God?** In order to identify with God, we must know about him. And the identification with God in us deepens as we know him personally and not just have information about him.

**Who is Christ?** The root word for “Christian” is often translated “little Christs.” If we are to identify with Christ completely in our lives, we must also know who he is. And we must understand that the Father and the Son want us to know them and be in relationship with them.

### **Who am I in Christ?**

- His Creation
- In His Image
- Children of God
- The Heart of Jesus

Knowing God the Father and the Son still requires us to make a choice to identify so completely that we move toward becoming more completely like Christ himself.

### **What does it mean to be transformed into our identity in Christ?**

It begins with salvation. We say yes to Jesus and his gift of forgiveness and life. We accept God willingly gives me the gift of transformation in order to be changed into the likeness of Jesus. It is a lifelong process according to God’s schedule and his will.

Abundant, everlasting life is found only in Jesus (Remain in me and I will remain in you). We learn to Be Jesus for others, not just doing but also thinking, feeling, and perceiving others as Jesus would. We learn to have “the mind of Christ” as Paul put it. Our identity means Being Love as Jesus is - recognizing that agape love is not a feeling but a whole experience of the value of another person.

God’s image is permanently and irrevocably in us. Therefore, our own central identity in God means we can live in love toward him and toward others consistently by his own invitation. But we must choose to do so intentionally. It is not inevitable.

### **Questions for my specific personal use of this practice:**

- What is my next step in understanding the meaning of Identity in Christ?
- What strengths in this area of discovering my True Self and living the Jesus Way have I already developed? And what areas of understanding and living this concept do I seek to develop in my journey with Christ?
- What resources do I need to further understand the concept of Identity and how I might grow to become more completely Christlike?
- How will I apply this concept within my community of faith?

### **Recommended for Further Reading:**

David G Benner. *The Gift of Being Yourself: The Sacred Called to Self-Discovery*. Downers Growth, IL; IVP Books, 2015

Max Lucado, *Just Like Jesus*. Nashville: Word Publishing, 1998.

Richard Rohr, *Immortal Diamond: The Search for Our True Self*. San Francisco, Jossey-Bass, 2013

Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*. Grand Rapids, MI; Zondervan Publishing House, 1995.