

## 4 | IDENTITY



### Image of God

We are made in the image of God. When we talk about being "made in the image of God," we are actually saying that we resemble His being. If you want to know what you look like, you can look in the mirror. The mirror shows exactly that. If you want to know what the original purpose of your **I am** is, you will find it in the encounter with God. God is then your mirror, because we look like Him.

### Love

When you look at God, you see that He is a God of love. He is a God who encourages you to love yourself and others. God made you to be with Him; He loves you. His love was and is without conditions, even for you.

### Worthy

When you look at God, you see that He asks us to worship Him. He thinks He is worthy of our worship. God sees the good in Himself and He desires your worship. You are made in His image and so you may also discover your self-worth. Learn to look at yourself this way. Be grateful for who you are and what you can do.

### Unique destiny

God is also the Creator. He invents, makes and does new things all the time. God the Father has a unique plan with everyone. Your talents and gifts are part of your DNA, which was created by God. With this DNA, your gifts and talents, you may serve others and pass on what you have received. As a result, you multiply your talents and practice your gifts.

### Good

God is good and just. Genesis 1:31 says, "God looked at everything he had made and saw that it was very good. Jesus wants to make your inner I am alive, so that you can be a restored person again who can think well of yourself.

### Free choice

Strangely, God has given you, His creation, the free choice to be as He is. Nothing is obligated, God gives us the freedom to choose for ourselves, through this He shows His love.

### Your identity

You are shaped by the upbringing you received at home in your family and by the environment in which you were raised. Culture, family and friends influence how you are shaped and determine how you think about yourself.

**"We in several places in the Bible that God wants you to become the person He intended you to be. That means there is love for yourself, love for each other and for God."**

If we go back to the beginning of creation, we see that God desires above all to be in relationship with Him. Not following rules that determine what is right and wrong. He longs for us to be connected to Him so that we become like Him. This is made possible because we come to believe in Jesus Christ. This reconnects us to the Father. This makes us sons and daughters, heirs of the Father.

### **Jesus**

Jesus knew very well where He came from and the purpose of His life on earth. He knew that He was the son of God.

If you try to write down the life of Jesus in a few words, you can say that He loved those who were disfigured by life. On the contrary, He reached out to those who had fallen into sin and gave them a new chance. This is how Jesus restored the identity of the people He met.

### **Peter**

In the New Testament, we read about Peter. He was a fisherman who had learned through hard work to bring in the catch and provide for his family. That was his old identity. When Peter went to follow Jesus, Jesus soon said that Peter was going to be a fisherman of people. Peter learned to listen to Jesus. He learned that listening to Jesus' voice resulted in a great harvest. Jesus, the Word of God, the I Am spoke. Peter the receiving of the Word, was inspired and confirmed with a great harvest.

### **EXERCISE:**

-When you stand in front of the mirror, what do you see?

Do you see the person God intended? Do you see a person who is loved, a person who is valuable and who has a destiny to do good?

When you don't see this, take time (possibly with the help of others), to understand God's voice about this. How does God see you?

-Can you see in that mirror that you were made good, to do good?

- "We are made in the image of God."

What attributes of God do you show the world?

-Peter became a fisher of men. What are characteristics in your life that God has put in you to show God to the world around you?

### **PRINCIPLE 4**

**God has given us a restored identity in Christ. We are loved, valuable and have a destiny. We may choose to embrace this or not!**



