




Applying Truth to Develop Identity in Christ | Application

 **READ: 2 Corinthians 5:16-17**


 **WRITE:** Do you consistently perceive your value from a human perspective or a godly one?

 **John 1:12-13; 1 Corinthians 12:27; 1 Peter 2:9**


 If the words you typically use to describe yourself fail to reflect your true nature in Christ, what is preventing you from identifying fully with Christ?

 **Isaiah 57:15, 66:1-2**

Where pride can cause a person to identify with their own achievements, false humility can tempt an individual to identify with human weaknesses or inadequacies. Sadly, both draw attention to self rather than to the powerful work of Christ in a person's life.

 Why is finding your complete identity in Jesus essential to spiritual growth?

Being in Christ affords us access to the powerful work of His Spirit so His unique, godly characteristics can be developed within us. As a result, we should no longer view our lives from a worldly or human perspective, but from Christ's perspective, focusing on His transforming work within us.

 **ACTION:** As you further strive to grow in trust and reliance on God's powerful work within you, practice using the following exercise. (This exercise may also be helpful in discipling others.)

1. Create a written list of godly attributes by writing each letter of the alphabet down the left-hand side of a sheet of paper, forming a vertical column.
2. Then, next to each letter write an attribute of God that corresponds to that letter. For example, A = all knowing, almighty, approachable, always near,... B = bread of life, beautiful, best friend,... C = creator, compassionate, consuming fire, caring, comforter, etc. Exhaust the list with as many of God's attributes as you can. (It isn't necessary that each letter have an attribute, nor is it important if some letters have more attributes than others. This is only a tool to consider the many characteristics of God.)
3. After completing the list, read through the attributes, considering each meaning.
4. Ask yourself the following question by filling in the blank with each attribute: What difference should it make in my life that God is [attribute]?
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal Himself to you. Then, intentionally implement into your daily life all that He shows you.

✍ What specific attributes of God need to be greater developed within you?

✍ What practical steps will you take this week to rely on God's power to develop these qualities within you?

➡ **FISHING FOR MEN:** Ask God to enable you to become more comfortable and confident in communicating the attributes of Christ to others and encouraging them to find their identity in Him.

📌 **Genesis 50:20; Psalm 73:26; Matthew 19:26**

Even though you may initially view a situation from a limited, human perspective, you can quickly transition your thoughts to focus on God's eternal perspective by using the phrase "But God".

✍ Below are examples of situations that the world would see as worrisome or problematic. Practice transitioning from each possible problem to the truth of who God is and all He can accomplish by:

1. Asking the Lord to bring to mind both His Word and His attributes that apply to each situation.
2. Then, complete the phrase "But God..." at the end of each description. (The first one has been completed as an example for you.)

Situation: Your close Christian friend shares with you that they have been wrongfully ridiculed by a family member. Your friend is deeply hurt and resentful. **But God...** was also unfairly ridiculed and can fully identify with your suffering (**Isaiah 53:3**). **But God...** tells us that none of us are without sin. He asks us to forgive others as Jesus forgave us so we can live free from resentment (**Romans 3:10; Mark 11:25; Hebrews 12:14-15**).

✍ **Situation:** The person you are discipling tells you that one of their parents has been diagnosed with cancer. The person is very worried about the matter. **But God...**

✍ **Situation:** Your Christian friend approaches you to ask for counsel concerning a situation at work. They are angry because they have been overlooked for a deserving promotion and feel their talents and value to the company far surpasses other employees. **But God...**


📌 **Psalm 19:7-8; Psalm 119:105; Psalm 42:6**

You can also quickly transition your thoughts to focus on God's perspective by using the phrase "truth is" and the word "therefore".


✍ Below are examples of situations that the world would see as worrisome or problematic. Practice transitioning from each possible problem to the truth of who God is and all He can accomplish by:

1. Asking the Lord to bring to mind both His Word and His attributes that apply to each situation.
2. Then, use the phrase “truth is” and the word “therefore” to transition to a mind set on Jesus. (The first one has been completed as an example for you.)


Situation: The person you are discipling tells you that they often experience anxiety and asks if you can help them with this issue. **Truth is...**Because of God’s great love and care for us, He tells us to be anxious for nothing (**Philippians 4:6; 1 Peter 5:7**). **Therefore...**you are honoring God by wanting to overcome anxiety. **Truth is...**there is absolutely nothing too small for God to care about and nothing too big for Him to handle. **Therefore...**He tells us to cast every possible care we have on Him, releasing it to His control and resting in His provision (**Matthew 11:28-30**).


 **Situation:** Your neighbors, who are new Christians, just experienced a home fire. No one was injured, but they are worried about the monetary loss they have suffered and fearful about the future. **Truth is...**


Therefore...


 **Situation:** Your friend calls to ask for prayer for an upcoming job interview. During the conversation they share their life-long insecurity in the way they come across to others. **Truth is...**

Therefore...

 **REMEMBER:** Learning to renew your mind with truth and choosing to trust immediately in it will promote spiritual growth in your own life as well as in the lives of those you disciple.

 How will you express to those you disciple the spiritual dangers of finding their identity in people, circumstances, or things other than the Lord Jesus?

 How will you explain to those you disciple the spiritual significance of exchanging any thoughts or feelings that oppose their true nature in Christ Jesus for those that do?

 **TO ENCOURAGE:** Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.” (**1 Corinthians 1:26-31**)