



Titus Ten – Chapter #3

Identity

Jim Macari (10-May-2025)



*** [Start the Recorder](#) ***

Introduction: Good morning. Today, we'll be covering Chapter 3 of our study through the book, *The Titus Ten: Foundations for Godly Manhood*. The subject of this chapter is Identity.

- By “Identity”, the author means who we are in Christ. As we will discuss, we have created an erroneous identity largely based on how we think others have perceived us but as Christians, we have a different identity. I hope to put this study in practical terms that I pray aids in our understanding. We will first look at how we become confused about our identity and then discuss our true identity in Christ.
- **I have a short story.** I could take up most of our time discussing the varying ways I have erroneously defined my own identity in the past. I am guessing that like me, others may have seen their identity in their careers. Our culture contributes to this definition. It's almost automatic when meeting someone new that one of the first questions is “what do you do for a living or for work?” Men too often tend to define themselves in this way and this leads us to inappropriate behavior, comparing ourselves to others to determine how we might measure up, and sometimes even coveting what others have achieved. Before we go on, let's pray and ask God for His help understanding this topic.

Opening Prayer: _____.

Group Discussion – Reflection Questions from the Last Session on Gospel:

- Share the most significant lesson or thought you had from the session on Gospel.
- Fill in the blanks: Who Am I? - “My name is _____, and I am a _____”

Summary of Chapter 3 – Identity: How did we develop this erroneous understanding of our identity and what is our “true” identity in Christ?

- **One contributor to our erroneous understanding is we confuse our identity with our assignments.**
 - In my opening comments I referred to how in early adulthood, I believed a significant piece of my identity was based on my career. As a result, this motivated many of my actions throughout my life. As an example, in my earlier years, it led to me prioritizing my career over church and family. Unfortunately, this is common in our culture but believe me, it isn't healthy for our relationships, and it certainly isn't Godly.
 - If our identity was truly our career, what happens when we lose our job or in my case retire? Do we lose our identity? How devastating would that be? If our identity is being a parent, what happens when the kids grow up, get married, and live their own lives? Do we lose our

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identity then? I wonder, how many marriages have suffered because parents erroneously thought their identity was all about being parents? Could that be a reason many husbands and wives struggle in their own relationship when the kids leave the nest?

- o The truth is neither of these are our identity. Josh, the author, calls these our assignments, and our assignments change throughout our life without consequence. Why? Because our identity, who we truly are in Christ, does not change. It may grow and develop but we don't lose it. Greg will lead us in a discussion about our assignments at our next meeting.

- **So, how did we develop these erroneous perceptions of our identity?**

- o Too often, we humans spew casual, thoughtless, and negative words that we don't think mean much, and we usually don't intend them to, but many times they stick with people. *Jesus spoke about this in Matthew 15:11 "it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person." Proverbs 18:21 Solomon says, "with our tongue we can praise the Lord AND curse those He made in his likeness..."*
- o A friend, family member, or someone at work may have said something that sticks with us and in our mind, defines us. They could be mean but sometimes completely innocent.
 - I had an employee on my team that one of the sr. leaders complimented by stating he would be great in a finance role. The employee was working on my team in marketing and still learning, so he perceived the leader's compliment negatively. He thought the true meaning of the compliment suggested he wasn't good enough in marketing and would never measure up.
 - We tend to internalize these comments as negative and they build on themselves to become part of our perceived identity.
- o So, this identity we create, is largely cultivated by what we perceive others think about us instead of who God says we are.

- **The Good News is God changes our identity.** - 2 Corinthians 5 states, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come."*

- o When we accept Jesus as our Lord and savior, we become a new creation AND with that, God gives us a new identity! The author talks about God restoring our manhood and He does that through our new identity. God wants us to see us not defined by our baggage, BUT as we really are in Christ.

- **So, what is our new identity in Christ?**

- o The bible reminds us who we are in Christ. For example, in *Ephesians 1:3-14*, Paul tells us *we are in Christ and therefore we are blessed, chosen, predestined, adopted, redeemed, forgiven, heirs, and homes of the spirit of God.*
- o Josh, the author distills these down to 4 for us. He says, we are slaves of God, sons of God, friends of God, and intimate lovers of God. We were created for deep relationship with God. God wants all of us.
- o Let's look at each of these a bit closer. **If we have accepted Christ as Lord and Savior...**
 - **We are Slaves of God** – In Romans 6, *Paul writes that believers were once slaves to sin but are now freed from sin and enslaved to God.*

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- What does it mean to be enslaved to God? I believe that means living for Him! It means doing His will over my will! It means depending completely on Him. It means serving Him.
- This slavery to God is a voluntary and loving submission, not a forced servitude. Jesus Christ is presented as the ultimate example of a slave who willingly and obediently served God, even to the point of dying on a cross. (*Philippians 2*).
- **We are Sons of God.** We are sons of God and He has affirmed us.
 - Romans 8:14 says *"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."*
 - 1John 3, further emphasizes this stating, *"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are!"*
 - Romans 8:16, *"The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,"* indicating that the Holy Spirit testifies to our status as God's children.
 - We know how God feels about His sons. The author reminds us that in Mark 1:11 when Jesus was baptized God opened the heavens and declared to His son in a loud voice in front of everyone, *"You are my beloved son, with you I am well pleased."* It is important we remember this is how God feels about those who have believed and accepted Christ!
 - I think God's example is also a reminder to us we must continue to uplift our kids this way and affirm them. Many of us don't always get this affirmation from our earthly fathers and this has left a wound in our hearts.
 - The good news is we have been adopted into God's family because of our relationship with Christ. As a result, God claims us as His own, accepts us, is proud of us and loves us. He re-fathers us in those places that our earthly fathers may have missed. God heals our hearts.
- **We are Friends of God:**
 - The bible says God's friendship extends to all who follow Jesus. As stated in John 15:3 *"This friendship involves intercession, worship, and a deepening knowledge of God's characteristics."* James 4:8 says *"As we draw nearer to Him, He draws nearer to us and he exposes more of Himself to us."* Sounds like friendship to me!
 - In John 15:15 *Jesus said he didn't call His disciples servants but friends*. This relationship with God is ours as well because of who we are in Christ. God seeks this friendship with us.
 - When we develop this relationship with the Lord, we learn how to develop true, lasting friendships with others as well. It is a roadmap to deepen our relationships.
- **We are intimate lovers of God** – We are in a love relationship with Jesus. He wants all of us. Remember, we were created to have a love relationship with God.
 - In Matthew 23 Jesus says *"you shall love the Lord your God with ALL your heart and with All your soul and with All your mind."* This is the greatest and first commandment. God is calling us into a deeper, intimate relationship where

we talk to Him, experience His presence, share with Him, listen to Him, involve Him in ever aspect of our life. This is intimacy.

- **Developing intimacy with God is essential for a fulfilling life.** This intimacy with God is a vital in our spiritual journey, offering us stability, confidence, sensitivity, and strength in life.
- **In Conclusion**
 - Our identity doesn't only affect us but everyone around us. Being a son, friend and intimate lover of God, demonstrates how we can be those things to others as well.
 - Instead, of comparing, competing, and coveting with other men, we are satisfied and confident because of our relationship with our Father, God. This clear understanding of our Identity helps to restore our manhood, enables us to have deeper and healthier relationships with our families, friends, brothers and sisters in Christ AND enables us to:
 - be better leaders in church, better husbands, better parents, better friends, etc. It restores our self-esteem and gives us confidence, joy, satisfaction, and purpose in life.
 - Don't let your past define you. Don't let others define you. Let our Father in heaven, who loves us and wants a deeper relationship with us define who you are – your true identity!

Closing Challenge:

- This chapter is about who we are in Christ. As men of God, it challenges us to:
 - Spend more time in God's Word- the closer we draw to God the closer He draws to us.
 - Think about how you may serve God
 - Strengthen our prayer life and relationships by praying together with family and friends.
 - Get more intimate with God – bring Him everything. He wants to be Father, friend and lover

Questions or Comments?

*** Please Queue the Video ***