

## **Our Identity in Christ – Reflected through Women in the Bible**

Good morning His Place family, happy Mother's Day, today we honor and celebrate the women among us who are mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, spiritual mothers, and women of faith who speak life into others and mother them. There is no greater challenge in all the world than that of parenthood, the world could blow up but the souls of men live on. We are to take care of the souls of our children. *But when we don't get that care from a mother, I believe our heavenly father will bring us that care when we are born again though others that pass through our lives. ???*

**When you think of the women in your life, you probably think of them in terms of the roles they play. She is your wife, your mother, your daughter, grandmother, and other roles we have but what we may fail to recognize is that they are women of great value, without any of those roles. We are all more valuable to God than what we do. I want to mention we are not defined by our past, performance, or the worlds standards- but by who God says we are.**

**Mothers Day when did it begin?**

**The official Mother's Day holiday arose in the 1900s because of the efforts of Anna Jarvis, the daughter of Ann Reeves Jarvis. After her mother's 1905 death, Anna Jarvis she wanted a day where mothers could be honored, Mother's Day would be a way of honoring the sacrifices mothers made for their children. President Woodrow Wilson, on Saturday, May 9, 1914, made the official announcement proclaiming Mother's Day a national observance to be held each year on the 2nd Sunday of May, thereby making May 10, 1914 the first national Mother's Day.**

**But the deeper meaning of Mother's Day is not only to honor our mothers for giving us life physically but to also honor our true parent God, who gave us life at all levels physically, intellectually and spiritually. As we remember our mothers, lets also remember God for creating us.**

Preparing for today I found myself led to share what the bible teaches about our identity.

**What is identity? Identity is a sense of self and a sense of worth. It answers the questions: What makes you feel significant? What makes you confident of your value? When you possess both a sense of self and worth, we say you have a real identity.**

I believe it's an illusion to claim that identity comes solely from **within**. We say, "This is who I am," suggesting that we can self-define, we do that in part, but that view is incomplete.

WE have been created with purpose and value and our identity is in Christ. The world tries to define us by roles, mother, wife daughter, career, appearance or success, but your identity goes deeper than any of that, your identity is not found in what you do, but in who you belong to.

**Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT) You Are Chosen and Loved**

***"Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ."***

*I was excited when I read this, he loved us before we were created, I think God was excited about us, he saw no fault in us. We are Adopted*

*into His Family an eternal family, bringing us back to him through Jesus Christ our lord. We belong to God that's our great identity! We are Children of God!*

Our **achieved identity**—one we construct by being better, richer, smarter, etc.—must be exclusive by nature. It depends on others being lesser. We often compare and judge in order to feel worthy. But this creates division, insecurity, and eventually despair.

### **What's the identity that we need?**

We need an identity that is:

- **Received**, not achieved, we are given the identity
- **Stable**, not performance-based
- **Grounded in love**, not comparison

**You cannot bless or name yourself. We are relational beings, wired to need recognition. Even those who reject their families and declare self-definition often seek a new "tribe" or audience to affirm them. We always need a word from outside—someone who names and affirms us.**

But who should this be?

To have true **self-esteem**, (Identity)we need the approval from someone **we esteem**. Yet people are fickle. What happens when the things you put your identity in fall apart? You fall apart.

**So The person who gives you your identity must:**

- **Never let you down**
- **Never be fickle**

- **Love you unconditionally**
- **Be greater than you and worthy of your esteem**

If it's true that "the praise of the praiseworthy is above all rewards," then the love of **God**, the Lord of the universe, gives the strongest possible foundation for identity. **In essence, the phrase emphasizes that true reward and fulfillment are not found in worldly praise or accolades, but in the completeness found through union with Christ, who embodies God's fullness and is the ultimate authority.**

This identity is not based on performance.

### **How do we get that identity?**

- We're **adopted** into God's family (Romans 8) We are not of this world we are in it passing through it, spiritual beings having a human experience.

### **You Are a New Creation**

#### **2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)**

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"*

***"The old has passed away; behold, the new has come":*** This verse shows us the transformative power of being in Christ, suggesting that a new life begins when one accepts Christ and is reconciled with God"

***We will change. The previous way of life, with its old habits and values, is gone, and a new life, filled with Christ's influence, has begun. We begin to change it doesn't mean we changed completely when we met Jesus but he's transforming us. Because we belong to him!*** **This is Good news!**

I want to pause for a moment, although she isn't here today I want to honor Therese Furey.....who has been the mother of this house, His Place for 29 years, the backbone of His Place and never seeking the spotlight. It cost her; she had to share Pastor Joe with many others for him to be the lead pastor all these years. Her sacrifices, her love for Pastor Joe and her support, have made it possible for this church to flourish and grow. The many days and nights Joe had to stay late at the church, counseled people, attended different meetings, events, planning, board meetings, and preparing for church service every Sunday for years along with the many other time-consuming commitments he had, she stepped aside and waited for her time with him. It takes a special lady to do that.

**Happy Mother's Day to you Therese, I know this is not an easy day for you, but we wanted to specifically honor you for your faithfulness being the matriarch of his place.**

Mother's Day can be difficult for various reasons, including the loss of a child or mother, strained family relationships, infertility, you're a single mom, or feeling like a "failure" as a mother due to circumstances like addiction or incarceration. It can also be a source of grief and sadness for those who have lost a parent, or who have difficulty with their own motherhood.

**The pressure to celebrate and the constant reminders of motherhood that can be overwhelming for us struggling with family dynamics or those who don't have a traditional mother figure in their lives.**

**My own mother was unavailable, and I grew up learning to mother myself and my two brothers. I was filled with anger and**

hate in my heart towards my mom. But today she is 97 years old, and I care of her, I honor her, I love her. I forgave her. There is freedom in forgiveness. You don't carry the weight any more of them. And in our journey, I believe God brings others into our lives to help us heal. I had a God mother and a probation officer that were role models and a voice of reason for me in my teens. Through the years God has brought women in my life that modeled for me how to be a woman and live a good life.

**Psalm 27:10, which says, "Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me."**

**This verse offers comfort and assurance that even when family abandons, God will provide support and guidance.**

**Isaiah 49:15 "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!**

**<sup>16</sup> See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;**

**We can contrast this with human behaviors; the verse emphasizes that God's love is not limited or conditional like human love but is eternal and unwavering.**

**God gives His Comfort and Assurance to us who might feel forgotten or abandoned, reminding us that even if humans fail you, God will not.**

**How many know Motherhood is a commitment? And it is not an easy task, it doesn't come with a hand book. When my children were little, I intuitively knew taking care of them meant keeping them**

healthy, clean, fed and to make them feel secure and know they were loved. All the things I didn't get I wanted them to have, it did it without thought I did it because of my own pain and trauma, I never wanted them to feel. Did I do it perfectly, nope, I messed them up too, but hey I'll pay for the therapy they need it. The most important thing for me with them was that they knew they mattered, and they were loved. God does that for us. We are his masterpiece.

**Jesus quoted Genesis 1:27, in Matthew 19:4 “So God created human beings<sup>[a]</sup> in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God made them male and female.**

*Being created in God's image means that we reflect God's nature in qualities like reason, creativity, relational capacity, moral responsibility, and spiritual awareness. It applies equally to male and female. This verse illustrates for us our identity that we made in His image not through evolution .*

We are created in the image of God. We are not god. We all have free will, self-awareness, conscience, personal responsibility, and all the other traits of humanity.

**Christian theology, teaches believers we have our identity in Christ—this is a central concept in the New Testament. Here's a breakdown of what that typically means and how it relates to God:**

**“Identity in Christ, refers to how a believer's self-understanding and purpose are rooted in their relationship with Jesus”.**

**According to the Bible:**

- **You are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17): Your old self is gone; your life is now defined by Christ.**

**Your Identity in Christ –is Who God Says You Are You belong to Him.**

**1. You are a child of God**

→ *“But to all who did receive him...he gave the right to become children of God.”* – John 1:12

**2. You are chosen**

→ *“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you...”* – John 15:16

**3. You are forgiven**

→ *“In him we have redemption... the forgiveness of sins.”* – Ephesians 1:7

**4. You are loved unconditionally**

→ *“I have loved you with an everlasting love.”* – Jeremiah 31:3

**5. You are a new creation**

→ *“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation...”* – 2 Corinthians 5:17

**6. You are free**

→ *“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”* – John 8:36

**7. You are God’s masterpiece**

→ *“For we are God’s masterpiece, created...to do good works.”* – Ephesians 2:10

**8. You are more than a conqueror**

→ *"We are more than conquerors through him who loved us."* – Romans 8:37

**9. You are not condemned**

→ *"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."* – Romans 8:1

**10. You are the light of the world**

→ *"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden."* – Matthew 5:14

**11. You are the salt of the earth**

→ *"You are the salt of the earth."* – Matthew 5:13

**12. You are a citizen of heaven**

→ *"Our citizenship is in heaven."* – Philippians 3:20

**13. You are redeemed**

→ *"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law..."* – Galatians 3:13

**14. You are victorious**

→ *"Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."* – 1 Corinthians 15:57

**15. You are never alone**

→ *"I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* – Matthew 28:20

**This identity is not based on performance. You don't need to try and be better than others to maintain it. We are all his favorite kid.**

How did we get our identity is through Jesus Christ.

- You're adopted into God's family (Romans 8)
- You're a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20)
- You're united to Christ (John 15)

**Jesus doesn't just show up and give you a name—He died for you. Your identity is not achieved but received, at the cost of His life. This means:**

- You are loved regardless of performance
- You are freed from the crushing burden of self-construction. self-importance
- You no longer need to be trapped in culture's identity game
- You must regularly remind yourself of who you are **in Christ**—through worship, reflection, and intentional thought. When cultural voices say, “You're not enough,” you need to **pull the identity of Christ to the top of the deck**.
- If you don't, you'll fall back into cultural captivity.
- 

**Romans 12:2<sup>NLT</sup> 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect**

- Let your identity be shaped not by what you do, how you perform, or how others see you—but by the One who made you, died for you, and calls you His own.

Where does your identity lie? How do you identify yourself?

These questions will help you understand what you believe and if you need to make a shift in your identity. When you know that you are his and he loves you deeply, it's his love that draws us and gives us our value. We begin to realize our identity is in the Kingdom of God not here, we are Kingdom people. We know we are loved.

I want to look at a few mothers in the Bible that knew their identity. And how they significantly impacted others, shaping biblical narratives and offering lessons for future generations. These include Mary (Jesus' mother), Jochebed (Moses' mother), Sarah (Isaac's mother), Elizabeth (John the Baptist's mother), and Hannah (Samuel's mother) and Deborah the Mother of a Nation know it sounds like a lot but ill be quick

- **Mary: Faithful and Obedient Mother of Jesus**

As the mother of Jesus, **Mary's obedience** to God's plan and her unwavering faith, have made her a central figure in Christian theology. Her "yes" to the angel Gabriel's message marked the beginning of the Savior's earthly journey. To be a young girl and say yes. **Faith and Obedience: Mary's acceptance of God's plan ("Let it be to me according to your word" - Luke 1:38) makes her a model of humility, faith, and obedience. She is seen as "full of grace" (Luke 1:28), representing God's favor and the ideal response to it.**

**Mary said yes to God's plan without knowing all the details (Luke 1:38).: Trusting God's will even when the future is uncertain. Mary never sought attention or status (Luke 1:46-55). Staying humble and giving glory to God in all things.**

Mary's identity was a yes-hearted obedience, quiet strength, and a willingness to let God lead.

- **Jochebed**: Faithful and courageous Moses Mother

When Pharaoh decreed the death of all male Hebrew babies, Jochebed courageously hid Moses for three months and later placed him in a basket in the Nile River, ultimately ensuring his survival and future leadership role. She ended up being the midwife who took care of Moses even breast feeding him.

***Jochebed was a woman of deep faith, courage, and sacrificial love In God, Jochebed's identity was: She knew it wasn't what she did but how she faced the challenge and responsibilities set before her. Her faith was in the love and power of God. She knew her baby boy was Gods gift and such a gift was not meant to be destroyed.***

- ***Faithful in adversity***
- ***Fearless in the face of death***
- ***Instrumental in God's deliverance plan***

***She teaches us that when we root our identity in God, through our actions—or what we see—can shape history.***

**Sarah**: the Matriarch the Mother of Nations (Faith that grows through the trials and tribulations)

Sarah's faith did not completely waiver, but it was tested and her response to the promise of a son was initially met with skepticism and laughter. While **she ultimately considered God**

**faithful**, there was a period of doubt and a human response of disbelief. (Genesis 12-24 the story of her and Abraham)

Sarah's identity in God is that of a *faith-filled matriarch, a receiver of divine promise, a model of obedience, and a foundational figure in the story of God's people.* **Her life reminds us that faith can grow**, and that God's promises often unfold in ways beyond our understanding.

**Elizabeth**: John the Baptist mother. Spirit filled, chosen, she knew nothing was impossible with God. She believed!

Elizabeth's barrenness and her subsequent birth of John the Baptist, despite her advanced age, were signs of **God's power and a source of hope** for those who felt hopeless. **Elizabeth's identity in God, as portrayed in the Bible, reflects deep faith, righteousness, and purpose.** **Luke 1:6** as "righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly." "upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations". **Her faithfulness involved obedience and trusting God's plan, even when it was unconventional.** She and her husband walked blameless lives together, walking, agreeing, sharing and serving, they created a successful marriage. ( read the story)

**Her identity was rooted in a life of obedience and trust in God, even when her prayers for a child went unanswered for many years. Elizabeth's identity in God was:**

- **Righteous** – living faithfully regardless of circumstances.
- **Chosen** – called for a divine purpose in God's plan.

- **Empowered** – used by God to demonstrate His miraculous power.
- **Spirit-filled** – discerning and spiritually aware. She believed.

**Hannah:** (1 Samuel 1-2). *faithful servant, fervent intercessor, joyful mother, and humble worshiper.*

Hannah's persistent prayer for a son, her dedication of Samuel to the Lord's service, and her eventual joy at God's answer, demonstrate **the power of faith** and devotion. **Saw herself as heard by God** – Her name means “grace,” and she lived that truth by believing God listened to her heartfelt prayer. **Hannah’s identity in God was that of a faithful, grace-filled woman who trusted God with her deepest desires and honored Him with the outcome.** Her identity was not defined by her infertility, but by her relationship with God. Remember ***"The Lord had closed her womb."* – 1 Samuel 1:5**  
Despite this, she didn't give up on God

*"In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the Lord." – 1 Samuel 1:10*

**Hannah’s identity in God was that of a faithful servant, fervent intercessor, joyful mother, and humble worshiper. She models a life anchored in God, even before her prayers were answered.**

*Prayer is self-discipline, and Christian character grows in the secret place of prayer.*

**Deborah** Judges 5:4 Faithful servant, bold leader, prophetess

She played a unique role in Israel's history, serving as the only female **judge** in a lawless period before the country got its first king. In this male-dominated culture, she enlisted the help of a mighty

warrior named [Barak](#) to defeat the oppressive general Sisera. **She didn't lead with domination, but with strength, care, and protective instinct—like a spiritual mother to a struggling nation**

Deborah's wisdom and faith in God inspired the people. Thanks to her leadership, Israel enjoyed peace for 40 years. **She proclaimed herself the Mother of the Nation, she was a prophetess and a judge. In essence, Deborah's identity in God was that of a faithful servant, a bold fearless leader, and prophetic voice raised up "for such a time as this." She stepped into roles that were unconventional for women in her culture—not to elevate herself, but because she was faithful to God's call.**

All these women demonstrated their faith in God through Christ, trusting that He would act even when they could not understand it. **Their identity was in what God would do, not what they did.**

The point is God gave them promises, asked them to do certain things, to follow his instructions, and they had faith to believe and walk out the mandates. We are a faith filled people too and can be filled with the hope and promise from God that we are who he says we are, and he will do what he says he will do. He gives us an identity we don't give to ourselves. They knew their God would fulfill his promises and the words to them they trusted and believed God not their own understanding. They were chosen, we are chosen, we are identified as Children of God ordained to do great things for the kingdom.

Did you identify with these women? I think you can. We are those women too, God reminds us today we have a great heritage and identity in Christ. These women show us we cannot do it on our

own. *The bible is a love letter, a book of instruction on how to live. These women didn't do it perfectly but for the most part they trusted God followed him and felt his presence.*

*Who does God say you are? Remember It's not what you do, it's whose you are. Who do you say you are?*

*Ladies and gentlemen, while today we're honoring the women, this truth applies to all of us: we are not of this world—we are Kingdom people. Our identity isn't defined by the world's standards, but by who God says we are.*

### **Colossians 2:9-10 (NLT)**

*"For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority."*

*This means that all of God's fullness, including his divine power and nature, resides in Christ, and Christians, through faith, are made whole and complete in Him. We are all in process.*

So not all wonder women are relegated to comic books and movie screens. The stories of these women, and many others, have profoundly influenced my faith and I hope yours today too. I want to follow these women and their examples, to be bold, to believe the impossible, to pray fervently, to know whose I am and who I belong to.

*No matter what your past may look like, Christ gave you a new name, a new story, a new purpose. We will fall short but god wont.*

**Ladies, and gentlemen, your identity is not in your mistakes, labels, status or even your motherhood.**

**Your identity is this, you are loved, you are chosen, you are redeemed, you are GODS! Will you believe it? I pray so. And I hope you have a great mother's day Ladies!**

**Prayer**

