

# Discovering Our True Identity

Notes by Franklin

Discovery Begins With This Question:

(15) **who do you say that I am?** Matthew 16:15-20

- Every person must answer this question.
- Every person's future, daily and into Eternity, depends on their answer
- Your blessings in this life depends on your answer

(16) **Simon answered: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**

- Simon's correct answer resulted in the discovery of the meaning of his life, his purpose in life, his ministry and most important, eternal life.
- Simon was already following the Lord, but as he more clearly understood **who Jesus was, the more it changed his life.**

In Luke 5:1-11 Simon met Jesus, and who Jesus was began to be revealed to him. First: a good **teacher**. Then after the miracle of the catch, Simon recognized Him as **LORD** over ALL. The miracle revealed who HE was. Miracles are needed and happen today revealing the True Identity of the LORD GOD ALMIGHTY – JESUS CHRIST.

(17) **Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.**

- Jesus first called him by his "**earthly identity**" Simon Barjona.
  - Barjona is an Aramaic word meaning "son of Jona".
- The Discovery, of who Jesus truly is, can only come about by Revelation.

Jesus said: **no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.** Luke 10:22

Our FATHER has revealed His SON to each of us, and JESUS has revealed Our FATHER to us, just as He did with Peter.

(18) **I also say to you that you are Peter** (petros – a small rock)

- Next, Jesus revealed to Simon his **Heavenly Identity** - the name which his Heavenly Father gave him **before** he was ever born.

The name by which he is known in heaven.

Revelation 13:8 & 17:8 **name . . . written** from the **foundation of the world in the book of life** Rev.2:17 I will give him ... a new name  
(referred to 13X in the Bible)

Ephesians 1:4 **He chose us** in Him **before** the foundation of the world

Before the foundation of the world, BEFORE you were ever born, YOU were CHOSEN and NAMED. YOU WERE HIS PLAN.

Luke 19:55 Jesus was not introduced to Zaccheus, **He knew his name!**

Genesis 17:5 **No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.**

Jeremiah 1:4-8 **Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, (5) Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you**

Exodus 33:17 The LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing of which you have spoken; for you have found favor in My sight and **I have known you by name.**"

2 Timothy 2:19 **Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His"**

This is where Family Planning began. It is as if we were born in a foreign country under a very evil ruler that claimed we belonged to him, and were educated by his evil ways. Living in this foreign country, believing the lies and living by its evil ways we accepted this to be our identity.

However, this IS NOT TRUE. **We are Children of the KING. Princes and Princesses** but did not know it. We believed we were paupers, living as street children, as nobody's and having nothing. It is something like the story of the prince in pauper's clothes – only they knew who they were.

- It is VERY IMPORTANT that we KNOW WHO WE **TRULY** ARE.  
Hosea 4:6 **My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.**  
Isaiah 5:13 **My people go into captivity for their lack of knowledge**  
John 8:32 **You shall know the truth & the truth shall set you FREE**
- We are living out today who we **wrongly** believe we are. Simon thought that he was just a fisherman.

- We are all victims of IDENTITY THEFT ! We have believed, accepted and lived out only our earthly identity.
- Knowing only our earthly identity chains us, locks us into a position.
- When we know our Heavenly identity we are set free from the past
- We will DISCOVER our **True Identity** as we come to KNOW:

First - Who **JESUS** is: **who do you say that I am?**

-and-

Second - As we come to KNOW who our Real **FATHER** Truly IS.

**no one knows who . . . the Father is except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.** Luke 10:22

As our revelation of **who Jesus truly is** increases, so does our knowing **who our Father truly is**, revealing our **True Identity** – HOW WE ARE KNOWN IN HEAVEN - AND ALONG WITH IT – OUR DESTINY.

- Who you believe you are dictates and directs your purpose in life
- Knowing our heavenly identity opens the door to accomplishing our true purpose and destiny for which we were created.
- **Who** you think JESUS is, shapes your relationship with HIM
  - Some thought He was: a good man / a teacher / a rabbi / a carpenter / some thought He was insane or demon possessed

The way you are responding to Him today, the way you are living, reveals who you truly believe HE IS. For instance:

- Is He just God, sitting in the heavens, far away and not really concerned about what is happening to you today. So you go on with you life . . . living out your earthly identity.
- Do we believe and our life demonstrates what the Word reveals as to who HE is - LORD GOD ALMIGHTY ?
- To what degree do we believe He is LORD? Luke 6:46

So, let us first focus on: **who do you say that I am?**

Colossians 1:13-20 HIS beloved Son, (14) in whom we have **redemption**, the **forgiveness** of sins. (15) He is the **image** of the invisible God, the **firstborn** of all creation.

- He is The **Beloved Son** of the LORD God Almighty.
- He is The **Redeemer** – He Paid the Price to **forgive sin**, the **Price** to **Purchase** and **recover** what belonged to Him.
- He is the **Image** - exact likeness of God the Father.  
Jesus said: **If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father.**
- He is The **Firstborn** – Stands in **First Place** before God the FATHER **from whom the whole Family** in heaven and earth derives its **name**.  
Ephesians 3:15 (our Family name could well be Love. See page 13)  
Romans 8:29 For those whom He **foreknew**, He also **predestined** to become conformed to the image of His Son (your destiny), so that HE would be the **firstborn** among **many brothers** (family)

(16) **By Him all things were created**, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities, **all things** have been created **by Him and for Him**.

- He is The **Supreme Intelligence, Omniscient** – All Knowing
- He is The **Supreme Architect** of the heavens & earth and all that is in them: all chemistry, physics, mathematics, botany, avionics, . . . unending. All physical and spiritual laws He established and upholds.
- He is The **Supreme Power** – that brought everything from HIS mind into reality by speaking it into existence. Job 26:7 He **stretched out the heavens over empty space and hung the earth on nothing** . . . . and told it to stay there

(17) **He is before all things**, and in Him **all things hold together**.

- He is **Eternal** the Alpha & the Omega – without Beginning & without End – Greater than, beyond, not controlled by - but controls Time.
- He **Occupies the Place** of **Prominence** over all and everything

- **He** is The **Nuclear Glue** of the universe – from whom, and around whom all things exist and revolve.

If your life is not revolving around HIM, you are out of sync, out of harmony, vibrating, shaking, colliding and suffering damage.

(18) He is also **head of the body**, the church; and **He is the beginning**,

- **HE** is the **Intelligence**, the Ruler, the Organizer, LORD over HIS body
- **The Beginning**, The Alpha, the Origin, Sole Occupant of FIRST PLACE

the **firstborn** from the dead, so that HE Himself will come to have **first place** in **EVERYTHING**.

- HE Himself Alone Occupies the **Chief place** and has the **Preeminence**

(19) For it was the Father's good pleasure for **all the fullness to dwell in Him**,

- **He** Embodies **ALL** the **Attributes of DEITY, POWER & AUTHORITY**
- **HE IS THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY**

(20) and **through Him to reconcile all things** to Himself, having made **peace** through the **blood** of His cross . . .

- **He** is **The ONE and only One who could Reconcile** ALL THINGS back to a RIGHT RELATIONSHIP with HIMSELF, removing the barrier wall of sin by the sacrifice of HIS Pure, Innocent, Holy BLOOD, and restoring **PEACE** between the LORD GOD and mankind.

A Brief Review of the History:

- Adam and Eve / the LORD's greatest creation / made in HIS image; The Angels of Heaven had seen the JOY Adam & Eve brought to the LORD as they walked in the garden together.
- The Angels also saw them SIN and become SEPARATED from The LORD GOD (Isaiah 59:2). They saw man put out of the Garden, out of light into darkness, out of life into death, giving their kingdom to satan and coming under his power.

- and seeing this GREAT FALL, I believe the Angels cried out: "*What can be done?*" "*How can this be Redeemed?*" (i.e. Revelation 5:2)
- Then the Angels saw The LORD JESUS stand up from His Throne and say: "*FATHER, I will Redeem them for you.*"

- **WHY WOULD HE DO THIS?**

GOD so LOVED the World, and Adam & Eve were **His Children**, made in HIS likeness. **HE** who began a good work will complete it, **HE** will finish it.  
(Philippians 1:6)

And here is the way He did it:

Philippians 2:6-8 (speaking of Jesus Christ) Although **HE** existed in the **form of God**, **HE did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped (retained or held tightly)**

A clear statement of HIS Deity. (see also: 2Cor.4:4; John 5:18; 8:24,28,58; 10:30-33)

The Mission was More Important to HIM!

YOU were More Important to HIM!

(7) **HE emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.**

**HE emptied Himself of**, surrendered or yielded:

- His Throne / His Crown / His Glory (Jn.17:5) / His Position / the Right to exercise the attributes of His Deity independent of His Father, the right to exercise His power independently. John 5:19, 30
- HE DID NOT give up HIS IDENTITY, or HIS DEITY.
- Placed Himself under His FATHER becoming a **bond-servant** to Him.
- And **HE became a man !**

From the heights of the Throne of Heaven HE came down, down, down,

(8) Being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself** by becoming obedient **to the point of death, even death on a cross**

And He who had no sin, the Holy Son of God, who hated sin, **became sin** for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21

WHY WOULD HE DO THIS?            Because:

Just as most earthly parents will give up everything to regain their stolen, lost, wayward children, so our Heavenly FATHER gave up HIS SON to regain HIS Family, **YOU & ME !**

**YOU** are that VALUABLE, that PRECIOUS to HIM !

**Greater love has no one than this**, that one lay down his life for his friends (or, dear ones).    John 15:13

God **demonstrates His love toward us**, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ **died for us**.    Romans 5:8

**He is THE LAMB OF GOD**      **Worthy** is the **Lamb** that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing. (Rev 5:12)    For He was slain, and **purchased for God** with **His own blood**, men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. (Rev 5:9)    And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, to **Him** who **sits on the throne**, and to the **Lamb**, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.    Revelation 5:13

He is The One & Only Savior:

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, **I am the way**, and **the truth**, and **the life**; **no one comes to the Father but through Me**.

Acts 4:12 And **there is salvation in no one else**; for there is **no other name** under heaven that has been given to men **by which we must be saved**.

The price HE paid to Redeem, reveals just how **VALUABLE**, and just How Much **HE LOVES HIS CHILDREN - YOU!**

Redeem – to recover ownership by paying the required price

And **NOW**, after such a GREAT PRICE was paid to Redeem You, and discovering our True Identity . . . . . **Here is OUR PART:**

1 Peter 1:14-19 **As OBEДИENT CHILDREN, DO NOT be conformed to the former lusts** which **were yours in your ignorance**, (15) but like the Holy One who called you, (your Father) be holy yourselves also in **all** your behavior; (16) because it is written, **you shall be holy**, for I am holy.

(17) If you address as **FATHER . . .** (18) **KNOWING** that you were not **redeemed** with perishable things like silver or gold from **your FUTILE way of life** (having no useful result, fruitless, vain, lacking substance) **INHERITED** from your forefathers, (our earthly identity)

(19) **BUT WITH PRECIOUS BLOOD**, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, **the blood of Christ**. Because our FIRST identity is from our HEAVENLY FATHER.

We have TWO IDENTITIES - TWO INHERITANCES !

1. A Futile way of life - INHERITED from our earthly identity  
- and -
2. A supernatural natural Abundant Life of Blessings –  
INHERITED from our Heavenly FATHER.

Which one do you want? Which one will you choose?

The Identity you live by is up to YOU !

Here is How Paul did it. He knew His Identity:

Philippians 3:12-15 **Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on SO THAT I** may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. (13) Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it; but one thing I do: **FORGETTING what lies**



**behind** and **reaching forward** to what lies ahead, (14) **I press on** toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- We **MUST forget** our **OLD** identity, the “hog mire” we lived in.  
Psalm 40:2 He lifted me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, and He set my feet upon a rock . . .
- WE **MUST** THROW OFF our Old Identity and PUT ON our NEW Identity
- This is where **WE MUST** TAKE UP OUR CROSS and follow Jesus.

Luke 9:23 If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, (say “No” to my OLD ways, my OLD life, my OLD identity) and take up his cross daily (my old life, my old identity, is dead) and follow Me.

HOW ? Activate the truth of Galatians 2:20

**I have been crucified with Christ**; and it is no longer I who live, **but Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by faith** in the Son of God, who **loved me** and **gave Himself up for me**.

.....  
[“I have been crucified” – the verb tense is: **perfect** – the action happened in the past (when Jesus was crucified) with ongoing continuous results. **Passive** – I did not do the action but only received it. **Indicative** – the action & state is certain & fulfilled.].....

This is also clarified in Romans 6:4

Therefore **we have been buried with Him** through baptism (placed into) into death, so that **as Christ was raised from the dead** through the glory of the Father, so **WE ALSO MIGHT walk in NEWNESS OF LIFE**.

- “Might” – It is NOT GUARANTEED. It is up to **US** to make this REAL in our lives . . . to walk in it . . . to walk in new life

How? By BELIEVING the TRUTH – the **old me**, - who I was - was crucified, dead and buried, with Jesus. AND the **New me** has been Raised from the dead and **CAN** WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE.

**CAN** – means it is up to **YOU** to activate this truth in Your Life.

YOU HAVE BEEN LIFTED OUT OF THE MIRE YOU WERE LIVING IN

Born Again // Raised Up // Lifted Up. JUST AS HE CALLED LAZARUS BY NAME so **HE HAS CALLED YOU** and RAISED YOU UP TO NEWNESS OF LIFE – A NEW IDENTITY.

You **Are** and **Can be** A NEW PERSON ! A NEW IDENTITY !

**Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind** (Romans 12:2) Believing & Receiving the Truth.

Proverb 23:7 For as a man thinks within himself, so is he.

There is a Battle going on to control Our thoughts, to control what we believe about Ourselves:

2 Cor 10:4-5 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of **strongholds** (one is who I think I am). We are destroying **speculations** and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge from God, (as to who you are) and we are taking **every thought captive** to the obedience of Christ.

We Must reprogram our computer – Our Brain.

Knowing our Identity TRANSFORMS us !

Ephesians 4:17–5:21 Puts it this way:

(17) walk no longer as the Gentiles walk (you are not one of them) in the **futility** of their mind, (18) being darkened in their understanding . . . because of the ignorance that is in them, . . . (22) in reference to your **former** (futile) **manner of life, LAY ASIDE THE OLD SELF** (old identity), which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, (23) and be renewed in the spirit of your mind (as to who you truly are – your real identity) (24) and **PUT ON THE NEW SELF**, (your new identity) which in the **likeness of God** has been created in **righteousness** (doing only what is right & just) and true **holiness** (separated from sin).

- **THIS IS YOUR TRUE IDENTITY:** Righteousness and Holiness.

(5:1) Follow God's example (not the example of the world) **just as a much loved child imitates his father.** (How? By watching Him, listening to Him, following Him, learning from Him as Adam did in the garden)

(5:2) and **walk in love,** (How?) **just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up** for us, an **offering** and a **sacrifice** to God.

- Just like we read in Philippians 2:6-8
- For the practical of what to do see Romans 12:9-21

We MUST Believe the TRUTH of Who We Are

- and -

We Must Be True to Our Real Identity

Our Identity Brings Accountability, to our FATHER, and to our Family.

Galatians 5 (19) **Now the deeds of the flesh** (the nature, the culture of this world, the old you) **are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,** (20) **idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,** (21) **envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you,** that those who **do** (perform repeatedly or habitually) **such things will not inherit** the Kingdom of God.

To ENJOY your inheritance today, as the Prince or Princess that YOU ARE, you must live . . . within the Kingdom.

If not, you have **chosen** to live by your OLD IDENTITY in the kingdom of this world. **Giving "the evil one" opportunity to attack you.**

We Must PRACTICE - WORK AT – perform repeatedly or habitually - our True IDENTITY to ENJOY our True INHERITANCE today . . . *"on earth as it is in heaven."*

(22) **But the fruit of the Spirit** (the nature, the culture of our true identity) **is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,** (23) **gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.**

- This is what we Must Practice.
- This is what we Must Work Hard at, to change our actions / our reactions / our responses / and our thinking.

1 John 3:7 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who **practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous**  
(see: Romans 3:22; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

This is what Romans 12:2 is saying:

**Do not be conformed to this world**, (we are not of this world) **but be transformed** (into who you truly are) **by the renewing of your mind**.  
As to Your True Identity.

Therefore, in Christ you ARE a new creation; the old things, including your **old identity**, have passed away; and behold, new things including Your New Identity have come. (from 2Cor.5:17)

Colossians 1:12-13 JOYOUSLY giving thanks to the **FATHER**, who has **QUALIFIED us to SHARE IN THE INHERITANCE** of the saints in Light (not darkness) **Who rescued us** from the domain of darkness, and **transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son**

- o **Live there, as a citizen of the Kingdom.**

We **qualify** by (1) **birthright** and (2) by being **Redeemed** by the BLOOD of THE LAMB, JESUS CHRIST who LOVED us and GAVE HIMSELF FOR US.

## Be Who You ARE !

1 John 2:28 – 3:3

**Now, little children**, abide in Him, (in the Kingdom) so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that **everyone** also **who PRACTICES righteousness is born of Him**.

See how GREAT A LOVE the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called **children of God**; and **such we are**. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, **now we are children of God**, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, **we will be like Him**, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has **this hope** (to be like HIM) fixed on Him **purifies himself**, just as He is pure.

HE CHOSE YOU - before the foundation of the world

Ephesians 1:4 He **chose us** in Him **before** the foundation of the world

And at that time:

HE wrote YOUR Name in the Book of Life from the beginning

Revelation 13:8 & 17:8 **name . . . written** from the foundation of the world  
in the **book of life** of the Lamb who has been slain.

Your First Citizenship is in Heaven. You are not from this world.

Philippians 3:20 **For our citizenship is in heaven**  
Hebrews 11:13 we are: **strangers & exiles on the earth.**

Before the foundation of the world, BEFORE you were ever born,  
YOU were CHOSEN – NAMED & enrolled as a citizen of Heaven.

YOU WERE HIS PLAN. YOU ARE HIS CHILD!

BE WHO YOU ARE !

**His Disciples:**

John 13:35 **By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.**

**His Servants and Stewards:**

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 **Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. (2) In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.**

John 13:14 **If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.**

Luke 12:42 **Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time?**

### His Ministers

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and **gave us the ministry** of reconciliation, (19) namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has **committed to us the word of reconciliation**.

Responsibility: Luke 10:16 The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me.

### His Ambassadors

2 Corinthians 5:20 we are ambassadors for Christ

As Ambassadors we have: Responsibility / A Commission to speak for the KING / Immunity from the laws and powers of the foreign kingdom we live in.

### His Missionaries

Mark 16:15-18 **Go** into all the world and **preach the gospel** to all creation. . . (17) These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; (18) they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.

And should fear and/or negativism arise within us, Matthew 28:20 adds: **and surely I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**

This commission not only gives us our **Identity**, but also **Authority**:

Luke 10:17-20 Lord, even **the demons are subject to us** in Your name. (18) And He said to them, I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. (19) **I have given you authority** to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. (20) Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that **your names are recorded in heaven**.

And **Responsibility**: Matthew 24:14 This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

- JESUS and all creation are waiting on us to finish our work

### **His project managers on earth, His co-laborers** (1Cor.3:9+)

Genesis 1:27-28 God created man in His own image, . . . (28) God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and **subdue it**; and **rule** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

1 Corinthians 3:9-15 For **we are God's fellow workers**; . . . (10) According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But **each man must be careful how he builds** on it.

### **You are Chosen** and Commissioned

John 15:16 You did not choose Me but **I chose you**, and **appointed you** that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

John 15:19 you are not of the world, but **I chose you** out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

### **You are Forgiven**

1 John 2:12 I am writing to you, little children, because **your sins have been forgiven** you for His name's sake.

Acts 10:43 everyone who believes in Him receives **forgiveness of sins**.

Acts 13:38 Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him **forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you**

### **You are Justified**

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, having been **justified** by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

### **You are Righteous**

Romans 3:22 even the **righteousness of God** through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction

Romans 4:5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as **righteousness**

## **You are Sanctified and therefore a Saint**

1 Corinthians 1:2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been **sanctified** in Christ Jesus, **saints** by calling

Hebrews 10:10 By this will **we have been sanctified** through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering He has **perfected** for **all time** those who are **sanctified**.

## **We are Priests** unto the LORD: **Chosen** and **Special**

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a **chosen** generation, a **royal priesthood**, a holy nation, **His own special people**, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light

A holy **nation** (gk. ethnos – a different or specific group from all the rest).

This is who we are. This is our Identity.

1 Peter 2:11 Beloved, I urge you as **aliens** and **strangers** to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

Abstain because that is NOT who you are. You are from a different ethnic group, a different culture, a different DNA.

Therefore:

Do not love the world or the things in the world. 1John 2:15

Do not learn the way of the nations (other ethnic groups), . . . (3) For the customs of the peoples are delusion Jeremiah 10:2-3

Because: you are fellow **citizens** with the saints, and are **of God's household** Ephesians 2:19

As they did, so must we: having confessed that they were **strangers** and **exiles** on the earth. (14) For those who say such things make it clear that they are **seeking a country of their own**. (15) And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. (16) But as it is, they desire **a better country**, that is, **a heavenly one**. Therefore God is



not ashamed to be called their God; for **He has prepared a city for them.** Hebrews 11:13-16

Matthew 5:13 **You are the salt of the earth. Be who you are !**

- But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? NLT

Matthew 5:14 **You are the light of the world. Be who you are !**

- Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify **your Father** who is in heaven.
- It is good not to do anything by which your brother stumbles.  
Romans 14:21

Acts 15:17 . . . and **all the gentiles who are called by MY NAME**

Our Family name could well be Love.

**God is love**, and the one who **abides in love abides in God**, and God abides in him. (17) By this, love is **perfected** in us 1 John 4:16-17

As Love is – our FATHER is. As our FATHER is – we are.  
 Love is patient - love is kind - is not jealous - love does not brag  
 is not arrogant - does not act unbecomingly - it does not seek its own  
 is not provoked - does not take into account a wrong suffered  
 does not rejoice in unrighteousness - rejoices with the truth  
 bears all things - believes all things - hopes all things - endures all things  
 Love never fails 1 Cor 13:4-8

1 Peter 4:8 **love covers a multitude of sins.** JESUS covered all sin!

We must abide in LOVE - live by LOVE - bring Glory & Honor to our Family Name - to our FATHER.