

*Genesis 32: After a twenty year absence, Jacob was heading back to Bethel to return to his home land to face unresolved conflict with his brother Esau; not knowing how angry Esau would still be about his birthright when he faced him, as a precaution, Jacob decided to split up his family so Esau's army could not destroy all of the members of his family at once.*

*In verses 24-29 Jacob had a visitation from the Lord:* So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. *(Isolation is the place where we all have to wrestle with the person we think we are so we can discover who we really are.)* **25.** When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. **26.** Then the man said,

“Let me go, for it is daybreak.” But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”

**27.** The man asked him, “What is your name?”

“Jacob,” he answered. *(The reason God asked Jacob to “state his name” was to confront the lie he had been telling himself and living for a long time.)*

**Verse 28.** Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, *(prince with God)* because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.” **29.** Jacob said, “Please tell me your name.” But he replied, “Why do you ask my name?” Then he blessed him there. **30.** So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.” (NIV)

- *The greatest lie we tell is not what we relate to others; it's what we've been telling ourselves;*

*and until we face the lie we've been telling ourselves we will not change.*

*Jacob received three things when he encountered God.*

- *A new name of identity.*
- *A new way of walking.*
- *A new relationship with God.*

*When God is about to do something new in our lives, He first needs to prepare us to accept our true identity.*

*Today, our topic is:*

*Becoming Who We Already Are in God*

*This is about growing into our full stature as a child of God in this world.*

*God intended us to live our lives from a place of who He says we already are, not from a place of alienation.*

*The majority of humanity live their lives from a place of alienation:*

- *Alienation from God,*
- *Alienation from self*
- *Alienation from others*

*The lens we see ourselves through as human beings is a combination of:*

- *Distorted emotions*
- *Distorted images, and*
- *Distorted concepts of who God intended us to be*

*This is caused by the deep level of helplessness, hopelessness and worthlessness existing in the human condition.*

- ***Helplessness*** occurs when we don't believe we are capable of attaining who we already are in God.
- ***Hopelessness*** occurs when we don't feel we are good enough, regardless of what we do, to make a difference in the world.
- ***Worthlessness*** occurs when we think we don't have significance or the capability to get what we want out of life.

*One of the problems humanity is facing today is an identity problem.*

*We hear a lot about identity theft – I believe nothing has the potential of stealing identity*

*quicker than opinions from today's cancel culture.*

*In Jeremiah 1, we find young Jeremiah in conversation with God, struggling to become the man God says he was born to become.*

*God always speaks to us from a place of completeness, never from our place of weakness.*

**In Jeremiah 1:4-8** *from The Living Bible.* The Lord said to me, **5** "I knew you before you were formed within your mother's womb; before you were born I sanctified you and appointed you as my spokesman to the world." **6** "O Lord God," I said, "I can't do that! I'm far too young! I'm only a youth!"

*God's vision of who we already are can be intimidating to many of us because of the misconception we've accepted from society.*

*It's possible to live and die and never become who we already in God, all because of our poor self-perception.*

**Verse 7** "Don't say that," he replied, "for you will go wherever I send you and speak whatever I tell you to. **8** And don't be afraid of the people, for me, the Lord, will be with you and see you through."

*Our validation to become who we already has been endorsed by God, so there is no need for any another validation.*

*The world and its systems are not designed to allow people to be themselves. The World System is designed to keep people on a*

*continuous treadmill of performance.*

*Acceptance and success are judged according to standard of operation imposed by external systems and/or societies.*

*The pressure to perform according to external, worldly standards, including from the opinions of others, causes many unnecessary causalities.*

*The identity of who we already are in God, can be lost among the judgmental attitudes of those who do not know our value.*

***There is no better version of us than what God created.***

*Remember what God said in Verse 5 of Jeremiah 1: "I knew you before you were formed within your mother's womb;*



***We are all originals created by God, there's no need to create a copy based on anyone's opinion. You are the first and only "You" God ever Made.***

- *You are the only you alive right now on planet earth (you are an "endangered species").*
- *You will be extinct. There will never be another you after you're gone.*

***We are designed for uniqueness – we are one-of-a-kind on earth.***

*At the end of it all, society's standard for acceptance, accomplishment and achievement cannot be defined by Facebook, twitter,*

*Instagram or the courts of public opinion, none of it generates internal peace.*

- *Society has confused success with permanent fulfillment;*
- *Accomplishments with lasting satisfaction;*
- *Achievements with eternal peace*

*First, Our Acceptance, Accomplishments and Achievements in life, cannot be defined by the opinion or assessment of public opinion.*

- *We are not successful simply because everyone says we are;*

- *We are not successful if we've only done what others expected us to do;*
- *True acceptance, accomplishment and achievement only occurs when we've accomplished what God created and purposed us to do.*

*Secondly, our acceptance, accomplishments and achievements are not measured by the opinion of others or the standards defined by society. God never intended for us to be measured by the systems of society.*

***Romans 12:1, 2 (The Message)*** So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating,

going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. 2. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

***Thirdly: Our acceptance, accomplishments and achievements are not doing good things; it is doing the right things.***

*Finally: Our acceptance, accomplishments and achievements are not based on worldly accumulation of wealth; rather, it is based on our obedience to follow God's will for our lives.*

**Luke 12:15-21** (*The Message*) Speaking to the people, he went on, "Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot." <sup>16-</sup>  
<sup>19</sup> Then he told them this story: "The farm of a certain rich man produced a terrific crop. He talked to himself: 'What can I do? My barn isn't big enough for this harvest.' Then he said, 'Here's what I'll do: I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll gather in all my grain and goods, and I'll say to myself, Self, you've done well! You've got it made and can now retire. Take it easy and have the time of your

life!’<sup>20</sup> “Just then God showed up and said, ‘Fool! Tonight you die. And your barnful of goods—who gets it?’<sup>21</sup> “That’s what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God.”

### ***What is Acceptance, Accomplishment and Achievement all about?***

***True Acceptance, Accomplishments and Achievements are pleasure gained from becoming who we already are in God; when we are pleased with giving of ourselves according to God’s plans; we will never be lonely nor desire to be anyone else.***

- ***Loneliness isn’t the absence of affection; loneliness is the absence of direction.***

***True and lasting satisfaction in life only happens when we stop trying to live up to the***

*expectations of society and start living according to who we already are in the plan God has for our lives.*

*We have to understand there is no amount of pleasing other people that can replace the uniqueness of who we already are in God.*

*Becoming who we really are involves knowing who we're not.*

- *The one thing that distinguishes us from others is our sense of destiny.*

*People who are unsure of themselves often live life according to the philosophies of others, trying to be someone else. However, when we know who we are, we are protected from confusion, frustration, self-doubt and wasted potential.*

*People with a healthy self-image know who they are and are not easily moved or intimidated when questioned about their identity, purpose and/or focus.*

In JOHN 1:19 Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed (*admitted the truth*), and did not try to conceal it, but confessed, "I am not the Christ."

*We will always be a victim of the observations of others until we know who we already are in God.*

*Verse 21* And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."22 Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said: "I am 'The voice of



one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of the LORD," ' as the prophet Isaiah said."

*Notice: John knew who he was, and his purpose and never caved in to the pressure to be anybody else but who he already become.*

*Five factors verify whether a person knows who they are with God.*

SPEAK THE WORD

*No. 1 Who Am I?*

INTERNATIONAL

*Can they answer this question? This is knowing about true identity. Self-identity gives meaning for life.*

*Most people get off track in life because they've never answered this question. We live in a world where people struggle with their identity.*