

In Luke 15:11-32 we have the story of the prodigal son in his struggles with his relationship with his father and his identity with who he already was in his father's eyes.

- *He was discontent with his father's arrangement for his life.*
- *He underestimated the value system of his inheritance.*
- *He lost the awareness of his identity and adopted an identity that was opposite of who he already was.*
- *His loss of his identity caused him to fall behind in his development of who he already was.*
- *The prodigal son could only regain his true identity when he returned to the place where it was first established.*

Today, we will continue our topic on: Becoming Who We Already Are in God.

When we do not know who we already are, we will be discontent with our lives and adapt a lifestyle that is inconsistent to the image God has of us.

- *Becoming who we already are is tied to knowing our identity, authority and our position.*

Humanity today has an identity problem that prevents them from becoming who they already are.

We hear a lot about identity theft – I believe nothing has the potential of stealing identity quicker than the opinions from today's cancel culture.

- *We should not let people neutralize our identity or compromise our convictions, just so we can fit into their narrative.*

In Jeremiah 1, we find a 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."

Notice: God never had to consult with your family history to create the destiny He has for your life.

As far as God is concerned you and I existed in His mind before we existed in reality and whatever He is ready to do in our lives He has already validated it.

Who we already are in God's mind can be intimidating to many of us because of the misconception we've accepted from society regarding who we already are?

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

Verse 6 says, "O Lord God," I said, "I can't do that! I'm far too young! I'm only a youth!"

It amazes me how often we cancel ourselves out by giving up on who we already are in God because we are operating from a lack of confidence which sabotages the reality God has for us.

- *Anytime we attempt to use our past history as our whole life, we are threatening the destiny God has for our future.*
- *God knows the difference between our position and our condition.*

Notice: God wanted Jeremiah to make the transition from who he thought he was to who he was already in God's mind.

God will always deal with us from His perspective and disagree with the opinion we have of ourselves when it comes to how we value ourselves and how He values us. He knows the difference between our position and our condition.

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."

Notice: when God said to Jeremiah "Don't say that" He wanted Jeremiah to know he

could not Step into his future relying on the information he believed about himself.

Our validation to become who we already are has been endorsed by God, so there is no need for validation from people who are uncertain about themselves.

We need to utilize the tools and resources given to us by God to make the transition into who we already are by not allowing society to influence and reshape the values we have as a child of God.

The world and it's systems are not designed to allow people to be themselves. The World System is designed to keep people on a continuous treadmill of performance.

Society's acceptance and success's are judged according to a standard of operation imposed by those who are dysfunctional in its society.

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

The identity of who we already are in God can be lost among the judgmental attitudes of those who do not know our God appointed 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 one day. 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 them generate true acceptance and internal peace.

- *Society has confused success with internal fulfillment;*
- *Accomplishment with lasting satisfaction;*
- *Achievement with eternal peace*

First, Our Acceptance, Accomplishment and Achievement 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, accomplishment and achievement 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, accomplishment and achievement are not doing good things; it is doing the right things.

Finally: Our acceptance, accomplishment and achievement 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.”^{16–19} 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!’²⁰ “Just then God

showed up and said, 'Fool! Tonight you die. And your barnful of goods—who gets it?'

²¹ "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, Accomplishment and Achievement is pleasure gained from becoming who we already are in God; when we are pleased with what God has given ourselves 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 a 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 destiny.

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.

There are Five-factors that verify whether a person knows who they are with God.

No. 1 Who Am I?

Can we answer this question? This is knowing about our true identity. Self-identity gives us significance and meaning for our lives.

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.