

A hand holding a globe with a fingerprint overlay. The globe is dark with light-colored continents. A white fingerprint is superimposed on the globe, with a network of white lines and dots connecting the ridges. The hand is visible at the bottom, holding the globe.

A Case of Mistaken Identity: Who Am I and Why Am I Here?

BENJAMIN JUSTER

There are moments in life when we face an identity crisis. We may have an idea of the person we want to be, but doubts and external pressures challenge our self-conception. Others may label me unfairly, or I may act in ways that are contrary to my values, causing me to question: Who am I? Why am I here? This conflict contributes to a sense of mistaken identity—who I think I am on the inside doesn't match the person on the outside.

The Oxford Dictionary defines identity as "the fact of being who or what a person or thing is; the characteristics determining who or what a person or thing is." This definition touches on a profound question central to human existence. It is a question that has its roots in the very foundation of humanity.

Created with Intention

Genesis 1:27 (TLV) declares, *"God created humankind in His image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them."* This foundational truth reveals that we were intentionally created, reflecting God's image. Just as a blueprint outlines a structure's purpose and design, our existence is purposeful and deliberate.

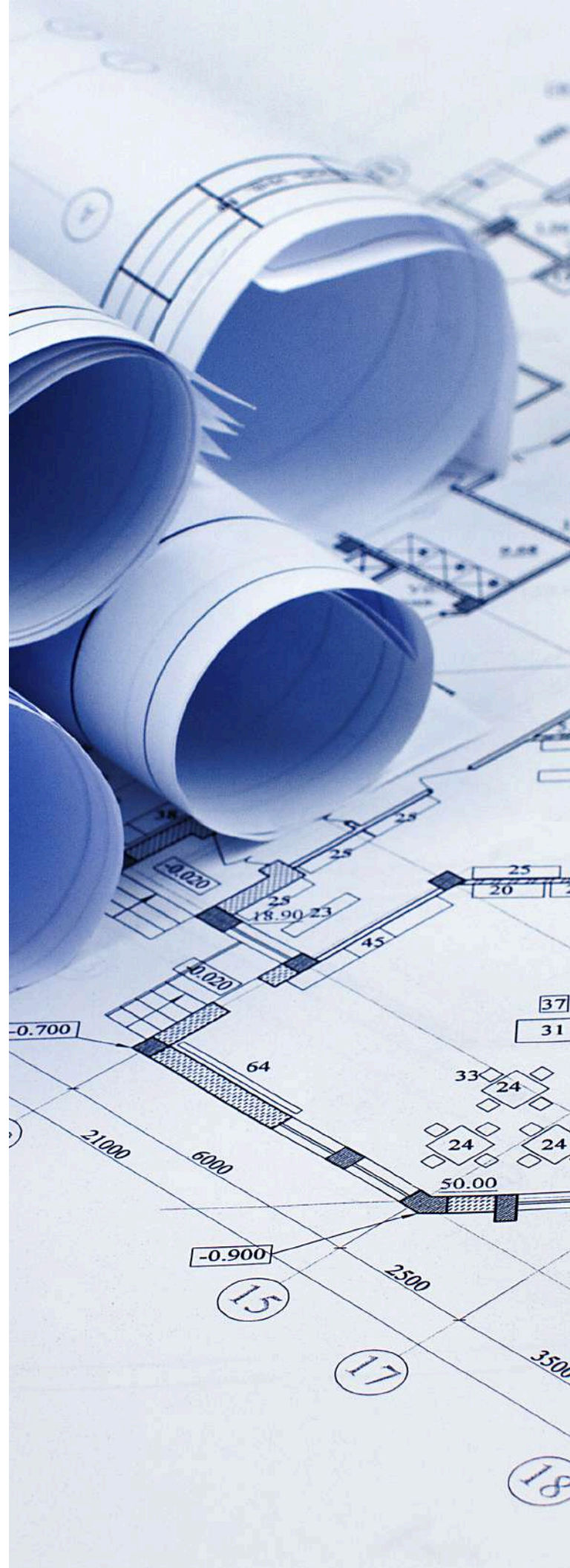
When my wife and I moved into a newly built home, we marveled at how the blueprint guided every step of the construction. Each detail was planned to ensure the house met its intended function. Similarly, our identity is no accident; it was crafted by God with precision and intention.

What does it mean to be made in the "image" of God? Imagine someone saying, "You are the image of your father!" (many people have said this to me). Such a statement reflects more than physical resemblance; it speaks to shared traits, values, and mannerisms. Being made in God's image means we reflect His essence—His creativity, love, and purpose.

Psalms 139 beautifully echoes this truth: "You knit me together in my mother's womb... I am fearfully and wonderfully made." You are not a random occurrence; you are a masterpiece, lovingly crafted by the Creator.

Why Understanding Identity Matters

Understanding your identity is crucial because it influences every aspect of your life. It shapes:





1. How You Respond to Life's Circumstances

- A clear sense of identity provides confidence and clarity when facing challenges. Without it, we may respond out of insecurity or confusion.

2. Your Perception of Your Value

- Your identity directly impacts your sense of worth. We are controlled more by what we believe about ourselves than by our actual limitations. Believing in your intrinsic value empowers you to live fully, while doubt can limit your potential.

3. Your Destiny

- Identity shapes your purpose and significance. When you know who you are, you can walk boldly toward the destiny God has prepared for you.

Reflect: Who Am I?

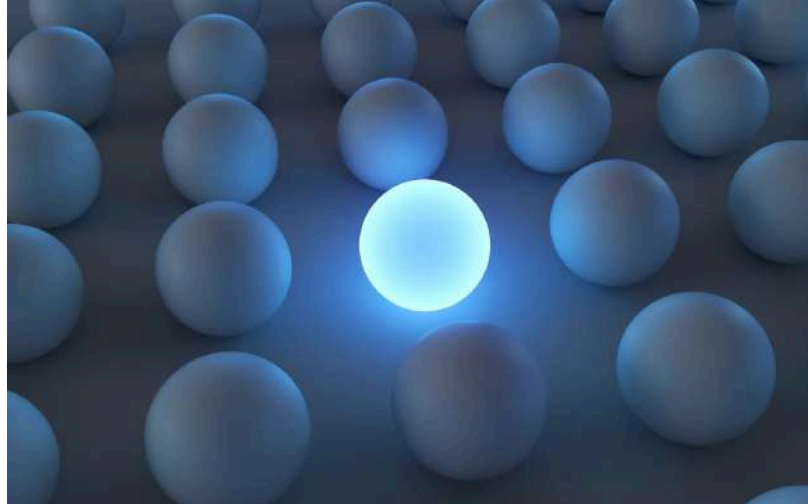
Take a moment to reflect on your identity. Consider your physical and emotional traits, skills, interests, hopes, and dreams. However, you'll notice that others' perceptions often influence how you see yourself. For instance, society frequently ties identity to occupation. One of the first questions we ask someone is, "*What do you do?*" This can create a false sense of worth based on external accomplishments rather than intrinsic value.

Who Does God Say I Am?

While feedback from others can offer insight, it's vital to anchor your identity in God's truth. Scripture reveals:

- **You are fearfully and wonderfully made** (Psalm 139:14).
- **You are loved beyond measure** (Jeremiah 31:3).
- **You are created for good works** (Ephesians 2:10).
- **You are more than a conqueror** (Romans 8:37).

1 Samuel 16:7 (TLV) reminds us, "*Man looks at the outward appearance, but Adonai looks into the heart.*" This verse underscores that God's view of your identity transcends physical attributes or societal status. He sees the pure desires of your heart—the ones He placed there to guide you toward His purpose.



The Three Dimensions of Identity

When reflecting on identity, consider three key dimensions:

1. Who You Are Today

- This includes both the brightest and darkest aspects of your heart—your current reality.

2. Lies Told About You

- These are false narratives, whether from others or the deceiver, that distort your understanding of your worth and purpose.

3. Who You Are Called to Be in Messiah

- This is your ultimate identity—the person God created you to be. It includes your destiny in Messiah's family and the good works God has prepared for you.

A Blueprint for Life

Ephesians 2:10 explains, *"We are His workmanship, created in Yeshua Messiah for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."* God planned your purpose long before you were born. Like a carefully crafted blueprint, your life was designed with intention.

Restoring Your True Identity

As you explore your identity, it's essential to uncover areas where false narratives have taken root. Are there "identity curses"—negative labels or beliefs holding you back? Eliminate these. Are there "identity blessings"—truths that affirm your God-given value? Hold fast to these.

Restoring a complete awareness of your identity in Messiah requires intentional reflection, prayer, and Scripture study. Through this process, you can rediscover who God says you are and begin to live out your purpose with confidence and joy.

Living Out Your Identity

To live as a son or daughter of God is to embody the privileges and responsibilities of that identity. It means trusting in God's love, showing compassion, and reflecting His values in daily life. Your decisions and actions should stem from the understanding that you are deeply loved and guided by a divine Father.

Understanding your identity is a journey of discovery and healing. It begins with the question, "Who am I?" and leads to the realization that you are God's workmanship, created with intention and purpose. Embrace this truth, and you'll find your value, destiny, and purpose align with His perfect plan for your life.

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