

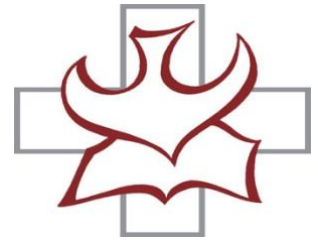
TRINITARIAN Identity!

The Book Of Ephesians

Matt 5:13-16 Phil 2:12-16 Psalm 139:1-14

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It is so easy for people to lose their way today, *isn't it?* It seems that people have no *anchor* whatsoever; they have no *internal compass* to guide them through life; they have no *objective truth* at all. So they chase after anything that makes them feel good; they will even believe in lies and deceptions; and they are frightened to death to take a stand against the world and its ways!

One place where you see people lose their way is with **identity**. *People just don't know who they are!* They are so spun around that they are dizzy with the world's depraved ideas. Some don't even know if they are male or female; most are deceived and have no idea what the purpose of life is, and they have no sense of right or wrong. This is not just seen in the world around us; it is also seen with Christians. Maybe you even question your identity and the purpose of life as well.

The Lord your God does not want you to lose your way; He does not want you to have any questions whatsoever about your **identity & purpose**. So God in His Word teaches us who we are. God and His Word is the *anchor* of our life; God and His Word is the *compass* that guides us through life. God and His Word is *objective truth* for us. *When you hold to God and His Word you will not lose your way, you will not be deceived, and you will not chase after the ways of the world.*

**Your identity is a Baptized disciple
of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

In your Baptism you became God's very own, your sins were washed away, you became part of God's family, you became a member of the Holy

Christian Church, and you have been given the gifts of forgiveness, peace, and eternal life.

Your **identity** is a Baptized disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. That *anchors* you to Christ; and His Word becomes a *compass* for you as you live your life. To clarify this even more:

A Baptized disciple is a Trinitarian disciple.

That means three things are **objectively** true for you:

God the Father carefully created you.

When you think about yourself and your identity, it begins with creation. You have been *carefully created* by God Himself: He knows you and He is working a godly plan and a holy purpose in your life. As Baptized disciples, we celebrate and thank God for creating us!

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. Psalm 139:14

In a world that is deceived by evolution and egalitarianism¹, Baptized disciples believe that we are personally, individually, and carefully created by God our Father. God has created you biologically male or biologically female for a reason. He loves you and has a godly purpose and plan for your life. You are not just another animal on earth wandering aimlessly; you are carefully created in the Image of God by the Father in Heaven to glorify Him in all you do!

So who are you? What is your identity?

It begins by realizing that you have been carefully *created* by God the Father!

Your identity as a Baptized Disciple is Trinitarian.

Not only has **GOD THE FATHER** created you, but

¹ Egalitarianism . . . [teaches that] there really is no difference between the sexes in most situations, and every effort should be made to level the playing field and downplay differences. Richard, Matthew. *Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?: 12 False Christs* (pp. 168-169)

God the Son, Jesus Christ, has redeemed you.

Jesus came into the world to be your Savior. He lived a holy life under the 10 Commandments of God; He never sinned; He was perfect at all points; every moment of everyday He thought, said and did what was good, right, and true. His holiness, His perfection, is *credited* to you through faith. It is *transferred* over to you in Baptism. God considers you holy and righteous because His Son Jesus Christ is holy and righteous.

And then Jesus gathered up all of your sins and all of its guilt and He took it all to a cross in Jerusalem where He suffered and died in your place. His death was a *payment* that brought you back to God. His death was a *ransom* that was paid so that you escape the final judgment of the world and its ways. **A price has been paid for you: you are redeemed by the Lord Jesus Christ.** You are perfect and holy God's eyes; your sins have been removed; your guilt is no longer remembered; and you have been brought into the Kingdom of God. In Christ, you now love, care, help and serve other people through the various vocations you have been given.

So who are you? What is your identity?

You have been **redeemed** by God the Son, Jesus Christ!

Your identity as a Baptized Disciple is Trinitarian.

Not only has **GOD THE FATHER** carefully created you;

Not only have you been redeemed by

GOD THE SON JESUS CHRIST; but you have also been

sanctified by God the Holy Spirit.

You belong to God! You have been set apart to live a holy life! God the Holy Spirit entered your life in Holy Baptism and now lives within you! Your body is described as a “**temple of the Holy Spirit**” --- a place for Him to live and move and have His being. He works in and through you to live a holy life; to speak godly things; to love God and help others!

So who are you? What is your identity?

You have been **sanctified** by God the Holy Spirit!

Your identity as a Baptized Disciple is Trinitarian. This is who you are! This is how you think about yourself! This is how you defend yourself from all the false, corrupt, depraved, and confused ideas in the world today. *You are a Trinitarian, Baptized Disciple!*

- ⇒ God the Father *carefully created* you!
- ⇒ God the Son Jesus Christ *redeemed* you by His life, death, and resurrection!
- ⇒ God the Holy Spirit *sanctified* you!!

You are a Trinitarian, Baptized Disciple!

Your identity is a Baptized disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. That anchors you to Christ; and His Word becomes a compass for you as you live your life.

Finally one other the thing. You are Trinitarian Baptized **DISCIPLE**.

The word “disciple” means one who is *learning*; one who is *following*. As a Trinitarian Baptized disciple, you are on a life long journey of *learning* everything Jesus teaches in His Holy Word; we are constantly *following* Jesus in our thoughts, words, and actions. **As a disciple you are ACTIVELY fighting against the world and its false, corrupt, depraved, and confused ideas. You have a duty and responsibility to protect yourself from the world by learning the Word of God.** As a disciple, God's Holy Word is *objective truth* for us: The Bible has been given to you as an *anchor* for your life; Holy Scripture is the *compass* that will guide you throughout your life.

The truth is found in God's Holy Word; not in the world around you. Listen and learn the Word of God; follow and obey Christ your Savior --- that is what it means to be a “disciple”.

Your identity is that of a Trinitarian Baptized Disciple.

God the Father carefully created you.

God the Son Jesus Christ redeemed you.

God the Holy Spirit sanctified you to live a holy life.

Hold firm to these gifts that have been given to you; and you will not lose your way it is *crooked and depraved world*. Amen!