

Series graphic; email

WHO AM I??

Core identity ...

Different Core Identity:

I am **deeply, eternally, and unconditionally** loved by God.

I John 3:1 (MSG)

What **marvelous love** the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God! That's **who** we really are.

{one slide; keep formatting clean for easier viewing}

God loves me because ... _____.

I am valuable because ... _____.

- What I do/have done +/-
- What people say about me +/-
- What I have/possess +/-
- What I have experienced +/-

{one at a time}

2 Major Dangers:

- Distancing from God
- Bringing to God only what is “*presentable*”

I Peter 1:22b-25

... so that you show sincere brotherly love for each other, from a pure heart **love one another constantly**,²³ because you have been **born again**—not of perishable seed but of imperishable—through **the living and enduring word of God**.²⁴ For

All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like a flower of the grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls,²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures forever.

And this word is the **gospel** that was proclaimed to you.

John 6:63

The **Spirit** is the One who gives **life** ... The words that I have spoken to you are **spirit and are life**.

Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the **Spirit of God** was **hovering** over the surface of the waters.

Creation is the start of a love story where's God love is the source of all things.

People—as image bearers—created from God’s love and for His love.

However, we spurned (doubted □ deceived) God’s love in favor what was perceived to be freedom and better happiness.

Romans 5:5b

For we know how dearly God loves us, because He has given us the **Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love.**

Romans 5:8

But God proves His own love for us in that while we were **still sinners**, Christ died for us.
(=1 Peter 1:25 – “...this word is the gospel that was proclaimed to you.”)

We only and fully come to God’s love **through the Cross** ... which means we come with our **sins, failures, traumas, disappointments, and weaknesses.**

□ We come vulnerable to receive & experience the unconditional love of God!!

{one slide}

“Even in sin, you are loving me ... you can only love and accept who I as I actually am And so, even in sin—which You hate and died for—You are loving me (versus leaving me), which ironically, makes me so much more inclined to kill sin by Your Spirit and please You by obedience!”

1 Peter 2:1

Therefore, **rid yourselves** of all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all slander.

{These can be on 5 different slides for better/easier viewing}

- **Malice:** a desire to hurt someone verbally, physically, or circumstantially
- **Deceit:** a desire to gain/preserve an advantage through dishonesty
- **Hypocrisy:** maintaining an appearance, afraid of people’s reaction if they knew the real me
- **Envy:** a desire for something and resentment toward someone who has it
- **Slander:** a desire for self-enhancement by putting someone else down

{One at a time}

How Do You Wake-Up:

- A) To prove myself, impress someone, get ahead of someone, appear someway to someone, compare myself to someone ...?
- B) I am deeply, eternally, and unconditionally loved by God.

RBCC LOGO + SMALL GROUPS LOGO/SLIDE

Colossians 3:11-13

In Christ there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but **Christ is all and in all**.¹² Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and **dearly loved**, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,¹³ bearing with one another and forgiving one another ...

I Peter 2:2-3

Like newborn infants, desire the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may **grow up into your salvation**,³ if you have tasted that the **Lord is good**.

Salvation is not a destination but a life!

{one at a time}

God is so loving that He is intimately involved in the person I am **becoming**.

□ *Am I letting Him love me into who I have the potential to become?*

God's goodness (= an aspect of His love) as the catalyst, the fuel, the power.

The love of Christ is the **value and power** of my life.

I Peter 2:4-6

As you come to Him, a living stone—rejected by people but chosen and honored by God—⁵ you yourselves, as living stones, a spiritual house, are **being built** to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in Scripture:

*See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and honored cornerstone, and the one who believes in Him will **never be put to shame**.*

The scary and awesome part of perfect love: it invites **complete surrender**.

I Peter 2:7-8

So **honor** will come to you who believe; but for the unbelieving, *The stone that the builders rejected—this one has become the cornerstone,*⁸ *and a stone to stumble over, and a rock to trip over.*

They stumble because they **disobey the word**; they were destined for this.

I Peter 2:9-10

But you are a **chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His possession**, so that you may **proclaim the praises of the One** who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now **you are God's people**; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

You point out who & what you love!!

God's people □ **What's going on inside the Trinity?**

Ephesians 3:14-19

... I kneel before the **Father**¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. ¹⁶ I pray that He may grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power **in your inner being through his Spirit**,¹⁷ and that **Christ may dwell** in your hearts through faith. I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established **in love**,¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of **God's love**.¹⁹ and to know **Christ's love** that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the **fullness of God**.

I Peter 2:11

Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and exiles to abstain from **sinful desires** that wage war against the **soul**.

{one slide; one at a time}

Sin quenches the love of God in my soul.

Sin clouds my identity in Christ.

Sin hurts the One who loves me most, best, and forever.

I Peter 2:12

Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that when they slander you as evildoers, they will **observe your good works** and will glorify God on the day He visits.

{put these 2 bullet points and the Scripture verse on ONE slide if possible!}

The love of Christ is the **value and power of my/our life.**

- **Agreement:** _____ ??

I John 3:1 (MSG)

What **marvelous love** the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God! That's **who** we really are.