

## Identity 16: Ephesians 5:1-7

Mirror God; you are his offspring. This is how: let the love of Christ be your life; remember how he abandoned himself to us. His love is contagious, not reluctant but extravagant. Sacrificial love pleases God like the sweet aroma of worship. [Eph 5:1-2](#).

As children who are experiencing, WE SHOULD BE LIKE OUR FATHER WHO IS LOVE. Love is to meet love. The Wuest says that we should be "ORDERING YOUR BEHAVIOR IN THE SPHERE OF LOVE." The greatest exhibition of this love was on the cross. Due to the Father's great love for us, He sent His Son to save us ([Jn. 3:16](#)). He gave up His best for us; we ought to give up our best for Him NOT FROM A PLACE OF OBLIGATION OR COMPULSION BUT FROM A PLACE OF RELATIONSHIP THAT IS IMMERSSED IN THE LOVE EXPERIENCE. **Note that it was the Father's love for us that motivated both He and the Son to implement the outrageous plan of God becoming Man!** I want to take a few moments to review our wonderful Father.

[John 14:6](#) (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

In [Eph. 1:4](#) in Mirror Bible, it says that God the Father associated us IN CHRIST BEFORE THE FALL OF THE WORLD. Most Bibles translate it from the FOUNDATION of the world, but the original Greek word is "katabole" and means "a casting or laying down." It can carry the idea of "putting in a lower place," which actually can fit with the foundation of the world because God spoke from heaven to earth (the lower place) and created all that we see. Either way, before the forming of the world or before the fall of Adam and Eve, God associated us in Christ. HE CANCELED THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE FALL COMPLETELY BEFORE WE EVEN EXISTED! **THE MANNER IN WHICH THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE FALL COULD BE CANCELED SO THAT WE COULD ENJOY FELLOWSHIP WITH FATHER IS THROUGH THE SON. Jesus came to restore us to Father!** If you had an abusive or absent father, you NEED A REVELATION OF THE INTENSE AND INSANE LOVE THE FATHER DISPLAYED IN SENDING HIS SON FOR US! **IF JESUS IS THE WAY, THE FATHER IS THE DESTINATION.** And because of Jesus, we can call the God of the universe, DADDY!

In Biblical thought, the FATHER IS THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE. He is the one responsible for the family's spiritual health and well-being. The

tabernacles and the two temples were called the HOUSE OF GOD and the HOUSE OF PRAYER. They were to be a place where Father God was the leader and His family could experience intimacy with Him through prayer and service. This is why Jesus drove out the MONEY CHANGERS in [John 2:14-17](#) because they made Father's house corrupt instead of holy dedicated to His worship. BUT NOW FATHER DWELLS IN TEMPLE NOT MADE WITH HANDS! YOU!

### **[1 Corinthians 3:16](#) (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

God sent His Holy Spirit to live in each of us who believe so that we can enjoy intimacy with our Father and so He can be the spiritual leader of His house and oversee your spiritual health and well-being. Jesus said in [Jn. 14:23](#) that He and Father would make their home in us. The way this was done is through the indwelling of Holy Spirit.

### **[Romans 8:15-16](#) (NKJV)**

<sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

<sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

As children of God, as the dwelling place of God, we are to be TRUE WORSHIPERS THAT WORSHIP FATHER IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH. HE IS SEEKING SUCH TO WORSHIP HIM. Notice that we worship Father from our spirit where Holy Spirit dwells in fullness. The soul requires retraining according to the word so it can come into agreement. BUT THE SPIRIT IS PERFECT. God can move us in our soul with emotions, but TRUE WORSHIP THAT IS ACCEPTABLE ORIGINATES IN OUR SPIRITS. It is those who have learned to do this that HE IS LOOKING FOR, STRIVING TO FIND, AND SEEKING AFTER!

### **[Psalm 121:4](#) (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep.

### **[John 5:17](#) (NKJV)**

<sup>17</sup> But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."

Our Father is laboring or working on our behalf 24/7. When it seems as if your circumstances are never going to change, God intervenes and that intervention reveals that He has been busy the ENTIRE TIME

preparing a way for you. BUT HE NEEDS FAITH! Don't delay your answer by short bursts of faith then doubt or by your words.

THE FATHER LOVES AND HONORS THE SON and the Father sent Jesus. We discussed that a bit already but the fact that FATHER SENT THE SON IS RECORDED IN MORE VERSES THAN ANY OTHER FACT ABOUT FATHER. I believe the reason for this is Father knew the enemy would do more to cause us to believe He is against us than any other part of the Trinity.

### **John 17:23-26 (NKJV)**

<sup>23</sup> I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

<sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

<sup>25</sup> O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me.

<sup>26</sup> And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare *it*, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

We are just as loved and honored by the Father as Jesus was because CHRIST LIVES IN US because WE BELIEVED! **Christ is the image of the Father, and the church is the image of Christ. WE ENJOY THE SAME ONENESS THAT FATHER AND JESUS ENJOY.** But, again, the main way we are separated from this experience of unity and love is by BELIEVING LIES ABOUT OUR FATHER. The enemy did this in the Garden and he does it today with much success unfortunately. **FOR EXAMPLE, MOST HAVE A CONCEPT OR IMAGE OF CHRIST BEING THE BUFFER, THE MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND US SO THAT GOD DOESN'T DESTROY US. But Jesus was Father's idea! NO, JESUS IS THE MEDIATOR BETWEEN THE ACCUSER, THE ADVERSARY, SATAN AND US!** When the enemy tries to destroy us or accuse us, we can come into agreement with the victory already won and resist him using the Word. HE WILL THEN FLEE IN TERROR. We didn't need someone to RESCUE US FROM FATHER. WE NEEDED SOMEONE TO RESCUE US FROM SATAN. **For this reason, the Father willed the Son's death and the Son willingly laid down His life.**

### **John 3:16 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,

that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

God saw a problem in mankind and sent the answer. If God had come as God and not Man, Satan would have cried foul because God had given man authority over the earth ([Ps. 115](#)). Only a man could take it back. And do you know that the FATHER JUDGES NO ONE?! He gave all JUDGEMENT TO THE SON, which is contrary to many's views of God ([Jn. 5:22-23](#)). The Father does not take pleasure in judging or condemning mankind. He did not create hell for humans but for Satan and his fallen angels. GOD'S DESIRE HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO PROVIDE ATONEMENT SO MAN COULD BE RESTORED TO HIM AND HIS HOUSE. And to top it off, Father is a MATCHMAKER giving a Bride of REDEEMED AND RIGHTEOUS BELIEVERS TO HIS SON! Along with the nations and pretty much everything else that exists! Lol. FATHER IS GENEROUS!

### [John 16:27](#) (NKJV)

<sup>27</sup> for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God.

Father is profoundly pleased that we love His Son and chose Him. He loves us dearly and tenderly. In fact, the Hebrew word for love "ahav" is made up of the word for Father, av, with another letter in the middle. That letter is "hey" and is the Hebrew letter for DIVINITY and REVELATION. **WHAT IS LOVE? THE FATHER'S HEART REVEALED.** And it is no coincidence that Father is mentioned more times in the gospel of John (97x) who is the apostle who wrote about and understood love more than any other!

LOVE HAS NOTHING IN COMMON with lust, immoral acts, or greed. The absence of these motives even in the way you talk sets a standard of excellence. Any distorted language, sarcasm, or below the belt jokes are uncalled for; much rather let gratitude grace your conversation. The Christ-life gives distinct definition to the kingdom of God. You cannot live a double-standard life. Abusing people through adultery, lust, and greed is like worshipping a distorted image of yourself, which is what idolatry is all about. Avoid any association with those who employ empty hollow words to entice you; unbelief only produces a breed of people that DISTORTS THE PATTERN OF THEIR DESIGN AS IMAGE BEARERS OF GOD; this certainly does not please God. Do not allow their unbelief to include you in their company. [Eph. 5:3-7](#).

When you understand the LOVE OF GOD and the fact that YOU ARE HIS OFFSPRING and when you experience these things, you will find that you have nothing in common with the lust that corrupts the world as we speak or any of the effects of unbelief. YOU ARE THE IMAGE BEARER OF GOD. When Jesus said that when you saw him, you saw the Father, THE SAME APPLIES TO US! Anything that is contrary to this reality is a distorted pattern. YOU WERE CREATED IN LOVE, TO LOVE, AND BY THE LOVE OF FATHER. He is not against you but for you. YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD CREATED WITH LOVE IN THE WOMB OF HIS HEART!