

June 28/29, 2025
"Confident Identity"
Pastor Aaron Buer



SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths

Each Friday, explore a key truth about our Christian faith and how we can live in light of this truth.

Day 1 [1 John 3:1-10](#) | Confident Identity

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 John 3:1

John teaches the believers in and around Ephesus core truths about who they are in Jesus. One foundational truth he emphasizes is that something important marks their identity. These young believers are struggling to understand that they are God's children. They have put their faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of sin. Now, John reminds them, they can live confidently because they've been adopted into God's family. In a city like Ephesus, where child abandonment was practiced, these believers may not have known their biological parents. John writes that what is most true about them is not who abandoned them, but that God has adopted them. They are his beloved sons and daughters.

Our relationship with our parents affects us deeply. Family relationships form a significant part of our identity. In much the same way, God wants our relationship with him as his adopted children to be the most significant part of our identity. When we let this new identity change our lives, we will find joy, purpose and healing. This week, we will look closely at our identity in Jesus, who we will be in the future and how we can live out our identity today.

TODAY: If God has already brought you into his family, thank him that your true identity is found in him. If you have yet to place your faith and trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sin, open your heart and life to him and the grace and mercy found only in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Begin your journey with Jesus and the life he offers today. If you have questions about faith in Jesus, email us at btw@adabible.org. We would love to talk with you.

Day 2 [1 John 3:1](#) | Who We Are

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 1 John 3:1

As John teaches the believers in Ephesus about how to live with confident faith, he draws their attention to God's great love for them. God's love should cause awe and wonder. It is a love so amazing that they should struggle to find words to express it. It should leave them speechless! John uses the word *lavished*, which means "over the top." Then, John tells them that this over-the-top gift is that we "should be called children of God!" He intends to overwhelm them with this description and leave them in awe of this amazing love. God's love is so wonderful, and John wants them to know that they are now children of God.

There is a difference between understanding God's love theoretically and sitting in awe and wonder at being God's child. This reality changes everything when we internalize it and make it the most significant part of our

identity. This past weekend, we used the alphabet to look at many of the different things God says about us as his children. In Christ, we are adopted, beloved, chosen and so much more.

TODAY: Use [this link](#) to review who you are in Christ from A to Z. Then, in your journal, list any lies you've believed about your identity that need to be replaced with something from the A-Z list. Memorize that verse so you can recall it quickly whenever you question your identity.

Day 3 [1 John 3:2](#) | Who We Will Be

What we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 1 John 3:2

John writes that one day, believers will be face-to-face with Jesus. Not only will believers see what Jesus is like, but they will also be like him. They will no longer sin and no longer *want* to sin. Plus, their bodies will be without pain, disease, decay or death. All these things are part of being a child of God! It includes a transformed character and a new body from God. For those in Ephesus who were struggling with deteriorating bodies and incurable diseases, this was amazing news. John tells them that everything will be different when Jesus returns.

Being a child of God means that we, too, will inherit from God a transformed character and body (way better than anything we can ever get from the gym). The apostle Paul says the same thing in [Romans 8:21](#): "Creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God." Creation is waiting in eager expectation for the children of God to be fully revealed because when Jesus returns, we will be like him. We will no longer be marred by sin and will no longer exploit creation. It will be glorious and beyond what we can imagine.

TODAY: Watch Ada Bible Worship sing "[Who You Say I Am](#)." Make the lyrics a prayer of praise to God that "I am chosen, not forsaken. I am who you say I am." Then, listen to this week's [Beyond the Weekend Podcast](#) for more discussion about your identity in Christ and your future with him.

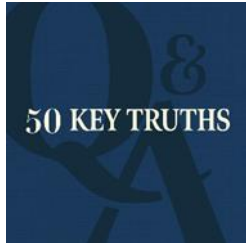
Day 4 [1 John 3:3-10](#) | What We Do

All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. 1 John 3:3

John tells the believers in Ephesus that knowing their identity as children of God isn't enough. They need to live out of this identity. He reminds them that God is "pure," so they should be pure. They need to root out selfishness and any destructive behaviors. They have no place in the life of a child of God. Believers don't purify themselves to earn God's love. They already have that through Jesus. Rather, they purify themselves in their daily living because God has already purified them. This isn't about self-improvement but living out who they already are in Christ.

A life based on our identity in Jesus should lead to purity in every part of our lives. Throughout this series, we've learned we can be confident in our faith in Jesus. We can have the hope John talks about. But we need to do something with this confidence. Confidence in our identity should change the way we live. We are to live as God's beloved children. If our identity is anchored elsewhere, such as in achievements, appearances, or our net worth, we need to move away from it and trust what God says about us. We should look more and more like Jesus the longer we journey with him. If there is a part of our life that we have "walled off" from God, this is probably the area we need to focus on first.

TODAY: Go back and re-watch a sermon in this [series here](#). Pick the one that spoke to your biggest need or the one that inspired you the most. Invite a friend to watch it again and discuss what you heard.



Day 5 [John 3:16-21](#) | Question 25: What is Salvation?

Question: What is salvation?

Answer: Salvation is God's gift of new life through Jesus Christ, rescuing us from sin and death.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

John captures the heart of salvation—God's loving response to humanity's desperate need. God created people to be with him, know him and walk with him daily ([Genesis 3:8](#)). But Adam and Eve's rebellion brought sin into the world, resulting in death. Sin separates humanity from God ([Romans 5:12](#)). Without salvation, all people are perishing. They face physical death, spiritual separation from God and eternal death. Jesus expressed the true meaning of salvation when he prayed, "This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent" ([John 17:3](#)). Salvation is more than just going to heaven after death. It's restoring the relationship between God and people that was lost.

Salvation is not merely adding Jesus to our lives. It is not a self-help program to fix our weaknesses. Salvation is all-encompassing, and it changes everything about us. When we trust Christ, we become a "new creation" ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)). God justifies us, declaring us righteous in his sight. He reconciles us, bringing us from being his enemies to being his friends. He adopts us into his family as beloved children. The Holy Spirit regenerates us, giving us a new spiritual life. The Spirit sanctifies us, transforming us to be more like Jesus. Salvation comes entirely by grace through faith. We cannot earn it through good works. We receive it as God's free gift through trusting in Jesus's death on the cross and resurrection.

TODAY: You've been rescued from death and given eternal life. Thank God for his love shown through Jesus. If you haven't already, place your faith in Jesus for salvation now. If you're already a believer, take time to marvel at God's amazing gift and consider sharing this good news with someone who needs to hear it. Learn more about salvation in our We Believe document [HERE](#).