Introduction

When you look in the mirror do you like what you see?

What about on the inside – do you like who you are?

If not, what would you change?

“Do you realize that the most attractive person you can be is the person God uniquely made you to be?”

Chip Ingram

Three Fundamental Questions:

• The Question of Identity – Who am I?
• The Question of Security – Where do I belong?
• The Question of Significance – Why am I here?

Maturity is coming to the place where you like the person God made you to be.
I. IN CHRIST, WE HAVE A NEW IDENTITY.
Verse 3

Who am I?
I am a child of God, made in his image and uniquely gifted.
Paul — I am who I am by the grace of God.

Don’t think of yourself more highly than you ought.
Don’t think of yourself more lowly than you ought.
We are to think of ourselves with sober judgment.

We need to see ourselves as God sees us.

“\textit{I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.}” \textit{I Timothy 1:12-14}

We need to see ourselves as God sees us.

Who Am I?
\begin{itemize}
  \item I am the salt of the earth. \textit{Matt. 5:13}
  \item I am the light of the world. \textit{Matt. 5:14}
  \item I am a child of God. \textit{John 1:12}
  \item I am part of the true vine. \textit{John 15:1}
  \item I am Christ’s friend. \textit{John 15:15}
  \item I am chosen and appointed by Christ to bear his fruit. \textit{John 15:16}
  \item I am a joint heir with Christ. \textit{Romans 8:17}
  \item I am a temple of God. \textit{I Cor. 3:16 and 6:19}
  \item I am a member of Christ’s body. \textit{Eph. 5:30}
  \item I am a new creation. \textit{II Cor. 5:17}
\end{itemize}

\textit{From Victory Over the Darkness by Neil Anderson}
II. IN CHRIST, WE HAVE A NEW SECURITY.  
VERSES 4-5

Where do I belong? Where is my security?
I belong to God and I am a member of his family.

"I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life."  Mark 10:29-30

In the body of Christ we find:
• Unity – There is only one body.
• Diversity – There are many members.
• Interdependence – We need each other.

When we understand how the body of Christ functions, it is liberating.

III. IN CHRIST, WE HAVE A NEW AND ETERNAL SIGNIFICANCE.  VERSES 6-8
Why am I here? What am I supposed to do with my life?

I am here to use my gifts to glorify God and serve others.

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.” I Peter 4:10-11

The goal of the Christian life isn’t to become a disciple who sits. A disciple is someone who multiplies his faith by building into the lives of others.

In Romans 12:6-8 we notice two things:
• The list of gifts is not exhaustive.
• The concern is not with defining the gifts, but with how we use them – faithfully – diligently – generously – cheerfully.

What are the gifts God has given to you? How are you using them?

Your life has eternal significance.
Conclusion

In Christ, I have a new identity. I am a child of God.

In Christ, I have a new security. I belong to God and I am a member of his body.

In Christ, I have a new and eternal significance. I am to use my gifts to glorify God and serve others.