

Faith and Identity

1 John 4:17: "Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world."

- He WAS the crucified, suffering Servant of Isaiah 53.
- He is NOW the resurrected, glorified Lord of all.
- The Person of the Spirit has been sent to make real in us all that He presently is.

Faith and Identity

The Purpose of the Cross.

- Even for the Lord, the cross was something to be endured for the Father's greater purposes.
- We bow at the foot of the cross in surrender, denying SELF for His sake and glory.
- But we do not stay there!
- We are to be fixed on He Who is alive and has conquered Now.
- He is, I AM.
- To embrace the inward cross of self-denial, but stop short of experiencing resurrection life now is to miss the point!

Faith and Identity

The Purpose of the Cross.

- Self-denial that does not focus on Who He is now becomes a self-focused religion, constantly introspective on how bad or weak we are.
- We already know that!
- In doing this, I become preoccupied with me.

Faith and Identity

1 Cor. 4:3-4: *“But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I know nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord.”*

•If I’m taken up with Him and His leading, the Spirit will do the convicting and examination.

•This does not mean that I have no concern for my heart motives and actions.

•The Spirit dealing with SELF is completely different than introspection – Self cannot deal with Self!

•To live introspectively requires no faith!

Faith and Identity

1 Cor. 4:3-4

•Romans 6:13 commands me to reckon self dead and realize I am alive in Him.

•This requires faith!

•In my worst and weakest state, I am to TRUST Him and His finished work and declare, “I am an overcomer, because He is.”

•This is foundational to walking in grace and power.

•Without Him, we are nothing, but I am no longer “without Him” even in my worst moment!

Faith and Identity

1 Cor. 4:3-4

•Isn’t it faith to trust He still passionately loves and likes us when we don’t feel loveable or likeable?

•This should never lead to arrogance or presumption, but a deeper faith and encounter with Him.

•My faith is in His power to keep me!

Faith and Identity

What is He now like?

- **His glory is fully restored.**
 - *When His glory manifests in this realm, everything is transformed by that glory.*
 - *We are now glory carriers and His entranceway into this realm.*
- **He has all authority and power in heaven and earth.**
 - *He has delegated that same authority and power to us, His ambassadors.*
 - *To be as He is will express that same character and power.*

Faith and Identity

What is He now like?

- **He has overcome ALL things.**
 - *Every name and power is under His feet.*
 - *The lowest part of the body (the feet) has authority over the highest part of anything else!*
 - *This is as we ABIDE in Him.*
- **Holiness is the expression of His being.**
 - *We become holy as His nature rests in our personality.*
 - *We begin to radiate with the "beauty" of that same holiness.*
 - *This is how the bride is made ready!*
