

The Born Identity

Receiving the Real You

October 25, 2026



Today we're learning how *making things right starts with accepting our identity!* Cuz if we're honest everyone *knows* something's off. And we *all* got *ideas* on what's to *blame* – the *politicians*, the *economy*, the guy who *cut you off* on the *freeway*. And yet – no matter how much we *vote*, *work*, or *learn to merge*, we still feel *stuck* in a life that doesn't quite *fit*. So before we try *one more fix*, we should go back to the *root* and ask the question at the *core*: **What's wrong with the world?**



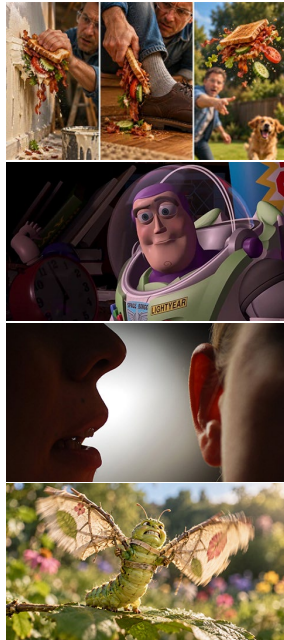
Well, back when the *industrial revolution* was changing everything except *that misfit* feeling, someone frustrated by the **“modern person still being troubled”** posed that *same* question to the readers of London's *Daily News*. And in 1905, C.S. Lewis' theological hero, G.K. Chesterton responded in a letter to the *editor* that came down to two little words: **“I am.”** As Chesterton put it, **“I am wrong. Until a man can give that answer his idealism is only a hobby.”** Cuz we can change *politicians*, *policies*, and *punishments* all day long, but we'll never *fix* what we *do* until we address who we *are*; and sorting that out requires *God* – not *government*.

And *that's* why we all shouted I Am last week when Bruce asked, **“Who's the worst sinner you know?”** not to *beat ourselves up* – but to *true* ourselves up, and *level* with who we really *are*. Cuz as we saw the week before – we were designed to be *God's kids* – and **living different from our design causes all our problems** – the way a sandwich causes problems for us as a *hammer*! But – since we *don't* have the *willpower* to just *change* how we *live* – we have to *exchange* who we *are* – by *pouring* in the *right* identity to *flood* the *old crud* out! **“I'm a sandwich, not a hammer!” “I'm a soul, not a human!”**

And all that means *I am what's wrong with the world* until I stop *fighting* my designed purpose and *accept* the *one* identity I was *created* to carry. Cuz **harmony only happens when we stop rejecting reality and receive it.**

Still confused? Just think Buzz Lightyear. When he lands in Andy's room, he's *convinced* he's a *real* space ranger – so he keeps trying to radio Star Command and every move he makes is *based* on who he *believes* he *is*. But then he sees *his* TV commercial with the disclaimer: **“Not a flying toy.”** And, *refusing* to believe the *truth*, he climbs a stair railing, spreads his wings... and crashes, snapping his arm *right off*. *That's us!* We keep *refusing* to acknowledge *our* Creator and *our* purpose – so we try to live life according to our earthly *appearance* and consistently *crash* and burn! And like Buzz, the *frustration* can make us feel so *lost* that eventually, we'll just *accept* whatever identity *other* people want to *assign* us... even Mrs. Nesbitt.

And *that's* a tragedy cuz **all our difficulties and despair deepen with every conflict in our character.** Even if a sandwich *stops* trying to be a *hammer*, it still gets *more miserable* with each *misuse*. Paintbrush? No. Shoehorn? No. Frisbee? *No!* Everything just keeps falling apart until we pull ourselves together and live in harmony with our true identity. **You gotta receive the *real* you.**



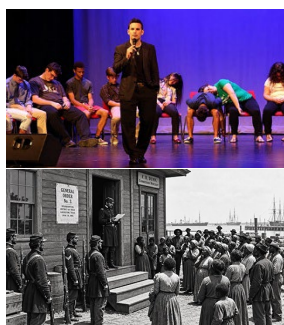
Get it? Buzz wasn't *miserable* cuz he was a toy – He was miserable cuz he was a *toy* trying to *live* like a *space ranger* – and ***we're miserable cuz we're God's kids trying to live as human beings!*** But notice how *Buzz* was *healed*: the *commercial* told him the *truth* about his *identity* and it *crushed* him – but, what put him back *together* was hearing *whose* he was – and *why* that mattered, cuz ***you can't live a fulfilling life until you're living the right life.*** And there's *three* truths we need to know to adopt that identity.

First, ***we do what we are.*** Like we've said the last few weeks, the *world* believes we can *behave* a certain way to *become* a certain person – but that's backward! ***Behaviors don't change identity; identity changes behaviors.*** No *caterpillar* ever *flapped* its way into becoming a butterfly – it *becomes* a butterfly and the *flapping* just naturally *follows*. And nobody has to teach it to fly cuz living with the right identity means *doing* what you were *designed* to do! And since *we* were designed to *be* good and *do* good – nobody has to tell us how to live the good life – it just naturally *happens* once we're in harmony with our identity! And that takes a *spiritual swap*!

[Remember:] If by the Spirit you *put to death the misdeeds of the body*, you will live. For those who are led by the *Spirit* of God are the children of God. – Romans 8:13-14 NIV

[But the spiritual journey starts with Jesus, cuz] To all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God – John 1:12 NIV

Y'see, *being* God's kid isn't something we *undertake*; it's something we *understand*. And John says those who *get it* are ***"those who believed."*** But something's gotta *make it click*. Cuz just like Buzz, ***we can't break free until we have a breakthrough!*** So, yes, we *do* what we *are* – but the second truth we need to know is: ***we are what we believe.***



Ever seen a stage hypnotist? He just *tells* a grown man he's a *chicken* – and the guy starts *flapping* and *clucking*. No coaching needed – he just *changes* what the guy *believes* about who he *is* – and the *behavior* shows up *on its own*. But it's not just a party trick. In 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation declared slaves in the rebel states *free*. But in *Texas*, the news was kept *quiet* – so for *two and a half years*, free people kept living as *slaves*. Then on June 19, 1865, a Union troops marched into Galveston to announce the truth: ***"All slaves are free."*** That's *Juneteenth*. They didn't *become* free that day – they finally *heard* it, *believed* it, and started *living* it!

Cuz ***behavior follows identity – but identity follows belief.*** And believing *God* makes you *free*!

[As Paul explains, the truth from] The Spirit you *received* does not make you slaves, so that you *live in fear again*; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by Him we cry, “Abba, Father.” [How?] The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. [That’s the truth He’s marching into every life!] – Romans 8:15-16 NIV



Cuz if *belief* builds *identity* – it *all* comes down to *where* we *get* our beliefs. That’s the key piece to *accepting* the *right* identity and it hinges on the *third truth* we need to know; **we believe what we receive**. Think about it – **every opinion and conviction you have is a result of outside influence** – just like *everything else*! Like Paul asks:



What do you *have* that you did not receive? – 1 Corinthians 4:7 NIV



Nothing! And that’s *huge* cuz **whatever we let in, we let influence**. And our lives *depend* on the influence we *allow* – cuz from *hypnotizing* to *advertising*, **influence aims to change what you believe about who you are to direct what you do**. So, if we want to find the *reality* of our *identity* so we can live in *harmony* – it’s all about what we *receive*; **the real battle is at the gate!**

So, ask yourself, **“Who’s been allowed to tell me who I am?”** Your social media? Your politicians? Your favorite celebrities? Your *self*? You need to know! Cuz **whatever gets heard gets your heart** and **whatever gets your heart, gets your trust**. And that’s a problem. Raise your hand if you’re just a *better-than-average* driver. You’re *not alone*, 93% of Americans said yes when only *half* of us *can be*! And out of 661 adults, only *one* thought they were more *biased* than average. Cuz **we believe everybody’s biased but me**, when the truth is, everybody’s biased *including me*. And *all* the imperfect *products*, *posts*, and *people* in this world all want you to *hear their pitch* and *trust their truth*!

Yikes! No wonder humans are *obsessed* with using religion and philosophy to test each truth – **the most important input of our lives is the most difficult to discern**! So how do we *know* which words to *receive*? Faith. Cuz *contrary* to popular opinion – faith ain’t *blind hope*, it’s a *valid verdict*!

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. – Hebrews 11:1 NKJ

Evidence! That Greek word means *proof* – the kind that *convinces*. And “substance” means a material support; so don’t think faith is *wishing* for what you want to be true – faith is the material proof of something you just *haven’t seen yet*. Which means **faith is more trustworthy than appearances**.



For example, back in the 1840s, astronomers noticed a planet was *wobbling* weird in its orbit. *And* because what they saw didn’t make sense according to the laws of physics they *knew* – they trusted that there must be an unseen planet influencing its orbit. So, Urbain Le Verrier calculated *where*, and in 1846, astronomers found Neptune in *under an hour*! But here’s the kicker: *Galileo* had already *seen* Neptune *twice*, in 1612 and 1613! He even noticed it *moved* – and wrote it off as a *star*. He *saw* it but didn’t *believe* it – and missed a whole *planet*! Le Verrier *believed* it before anyone *saw* it – so they *found* it! Cuz **seeing isn’t believing – believing is seeing**. See the difference?

Galileo made *assumptions* based on *appearances* but Le Verrier used *facts and faith* to *test* that truth. And **God doesn't just allow testing – He commands it:**

Test all things; hold fast what is good. – 1 Thessalonians 5:21 NKJ

You ever notice everyone who wants your *attention* – *doesn't* want your *scrutiny*? Try it out – just *asking* people to provide *proof* of their position feels like you're starting a *fight*! But only *con* artists and *criminals* are *threatened* by closer *inspection* of their *truth*. So when *God* says, **"Test everything!"** it's cuz He's *so confident* in His *truth* that **testing the rest only proves He's the best.** So try it! Take *God out*, and *here's* the story you're putting *faith* in: life is what it is, and your sense of *identity* is just an evolutionary survival trick that helps you live a *pointless* life a little *longer* with a *deeper fear* of your *inevitable death*! Does *that* make sense of all the evidence *you've experienced*? Does it *explain* everything *you can't* see? If not, **maybe try receiving more of what God has to say!**



Cuz **you can't see your identity as His kid written in the sky – but you can see the evidence of that identity influencing this life!** I mean, look around! Compared to everything else, every one of *us* has a *weird wobble* that *doesn't* make sense according to *appearances* alone. And *God* says it's His love for His kids that's pulling us *away* from *earth* and *toward* the *truth*! And as soon as we *receive* it, *our* weird wobbles make the *world* make *sense*!

Y'know, Woody *tried* telling Buzz who he *was* throughout the whole movie, but he could only *receive* the truth once he *let go* of the identity based on his *appearance*. *After* that, Woody's *speech* finally *made sense*, cuz he finally *understood* **who we are is defined by whose we are.** So, when he lifts his *boot* and sees Andy's name, *everything clicked* for Buzz cuz his *identity* clicked *into place*. **And FYI – God signs His kids, too:**

[Jesus says:] I will write on them the name of My God – Revelation 3:12 NIV

And when we let go of *our* old identity, we can finally hear the truth we've been fighting in frustration even though *God's Word* has been trying to *set us straight* with the *same* speech Woody gave: **"Wait a minute – being God's kid is a lot better than being a human being! It is! Look, up in heaven is a Father who thinks you are the greatest – and not because you're impressive, pal – it's because you're His. You are His kid! And why would God want you? Look at you! Angels want what you've got! (1 PET 1:12) You've got wings – you'll soar like an eagle! (ISA 40:31) You glow in the dark – you're the light of the whole world! (MAT 5:14) You talk – and the Creator of the universe listens when you call! (ROM 8:15) And your helmet does that whoosh thing – cuz it's the helmet of salvation! (EPH 6:17) You are a cool kid - cuz you are God's kid!"** So you better *act like it*!

Cuz, **what's wrong with the world?** Chesterton was right: **I am – every time I forget whose I am.** So, this week before you check your *phone*, your *email*, or your *bank account* – **check your boot!** Look at the life *you're living* and *ask* yourself if it's *worth* your *faith*: are the voices you *let in* leading you to *believe* in an identity that *feels like a fit* – or *frequently frustrates*. Cuz until you *accept* your adoption and *receive the real you* – you'll just *crash and burn* when you're meant to fly – *to infinity and beyond*!

Father God, thank You for loving me in spite of my sin; forgive me and cleanse me by the sacrifice of Your Son, my Savior; and free me and lead me by Your Spirit and Word, as I seek to trust and follow Jesus Christ, as the Lord of my life. Amen.