

YOUR IDENTITY—YOUR ACTION

October 25, 2020 2 Corinthians 12:11-21 by Bob Branch
Real Faith in Raw Times, part 21

BIG IDEA: We must know who we are (in Christ) so we can live for the sake of others in truth and transparency.

¹¹ I have made a fool of myself, but you drove me to it. I ought to have been commended by you, for I am not in the least inferior to the “super-apostles,” even though I am nothing. ¹² I persevered in demonstrating among you the marks of a true apostle, including signs, wonders and miracles. ¹³ How were you inferior to the other churches, except that I was never a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong! **[KNOWS WHO HE IS]**

¹⁴ Now I am ready to visit you for the third time, and I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is not your possessions but you. **[ON THE GIVE-NOT THE TAKE]** After all, children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. ¹⁵ So I will very gladly spend for you everything I have and expend myself as well. If I love you more, will you love me less? ¹⁶ Be that as it may, I have not been a burden to you. Yet, crafty fellow that I am, I caught you by trickery! ¹⁷ Did I exploit you through any of the men I sent to you? ¹⁸ I urged Titus to go to you and I sent our brother with him. Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not walk in the same footsteps by the same Spirit? **[FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS]**

¹⁹ Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves to you? We have been speaking in the sight of God as those in Christ; and everything we do, dear friends, is for your strengthening. ²⁰ For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder. ²¹ I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual sin and debauchery in which they have indulged. **12:11-21 [TRANSPARENT & TRUTHFUL]**

1. Know _____.

Do you know what God says about you?

- Dearly loved. (1 John 3:3; Col. 3:12)
- Of great worth to God. (Mt. 6:26; 10:31; 12:12)
- Made in his image. (Gen. 1:27; Jas. 3:9)
- Complete in him. (Col. 2:10)
- Accepted. (Eph. 1:6)
- Alive in Christ (Eph 2:5)
- God’s daughter/son. (Jn 1:12; 1 Jn. 3:1)
- Jesus’ friend. (Jn 15:14)
- Seated in heavenly places in Christ. (Eph 2:6)
- Co-heir with Jesus, sharing His inheritance. (Rom. 8:17)
- United with God and one spirit with Him. (1 Cor. 6:17)
- God’s temple. His Spirit and life live in me. (1 Cor. 6:19)
- A Saint. (Eph. 1:1)
- Redeemed and forgiven. (Col. 1:14)
- Free from condemnation. (Rom. 8:1)
- New creation in Christ. (2 Cor. 5:17)
- Chosen by God. (Col. 3:12)
- God's co-worker. (2 Cor. 6:1; Jn. 5:19)

2. Live for the _____.

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” **John 15:13**

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,” and “your neighbor as yourself.” **Luke 10:27 CSB**

“What does love require of me.” **Andy Stanley**

3. In _____ and _____.

“We must speak the truth in love, and so grow up in everything into him.” **Ephesians 4:15 NTE** (Jn 1:14; 8:32)

“We have opened our hearts wide to you.” **2 Cor. 6:11 NirV**