

More Than a Name

Module: CHRIST IN YOU: GOD-GIVEN IDENTITY

We, as humans, are extraordinary creations of God. We have been created with an incredible purpose and have been given a divine identity as image-bearers of God. Being an image-bearer doesn't necessarily mean we and our Heavenly Father are physical look-a-likes – it actually refers to the fact that we are to be people who display His character to the world around us. We don't do this on our own, but rather God Himself has designed us to be inhabited by Him in order that He might live in and through us.

Sin has severely damaged our ability to live out our intended purpose – it separates us from our Creator and is characterized by an attitude of independence and rebellion rather than dependence and obedience.

God has therefore created an amazing plan of restoration in order to rescue us from sin and restore us to our original design. "...This mystery...which is Christ in you, the hope of glory," (Colossians 1:27) is the key to God's redemptive plan. Our sin is forgiven by His death and our eternal quality of life is restored through His indwelling life. Through dependency on Christ, we are empowered to return to our original state and live out our God-given identity.

In lesson one, **Identity Created**, students will discover the truth of what it means to be made in the image of God and how that truth affects our identity. Through a brief look at the lives of both Adam and Jesus, students will recognize that the normal human life is one that is lived out as an image-bearer of God, a purpose only experienced when we live in dependence on our Creator.

In lesson two, **Identity Lost**, students will learn, through a simple activity, that to sin is to actually fall short of God's intended purpose. When we fail to live in dependence on our Creator, we lose our identity as image-bearers and are distanced from our purpose and our God. Through

small group work and large group discussion, students will be challenged to examine themselves for any attitudes that might be causing them to 'miss the mark'.

In lesson three, **Identity Restored**, using furniture restoration as an example, students will discover God's great restoration plan for His creation. Students will discover that it is only through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that we are able to rediscover our God-given purpose and identity. The key verse for this session is Colossians 1:27 - ...*Christ in you, the hope of glory...*