

SPRING 2025

# TIDINGS

CHRIST'S SANCTIFIED HOLY CHURCH

## Value in Relationship

Our identity is what helps us to determine who we are, based on successes or possibly failures. Identity can give an understanding of who we are as individuals and as members of a social group and can change over time based on our development from childhood to adolescence to adulthood. A strong sense of identity is important! It creates self-awareness, provides direction and motivation, enables healthy relationships, keeps us grounded, improves decision making, and helps to foster community participation. But, our identity can be constantly changing depending on what it is grounded in.

People who build their identity in things that can change, fluctuate, or can be stolen, seem to struggle more. People who establish their identity in something continuous and unchanging have far fewer struggles in life. Identity matters: "Certainty about oneself and the direction one is going in is closely related to better functioning in multiple domains." (J. Warner Wallace)

If we carefully examine every valley we have gone through and closely look at the root of the issue, we would find at the core of the problem an identity issue. How we perceived ourselves was abruptly changed. After working many years for a company, one day you were fired. Your identity as economically successful takes a turn, and you are struggling to pay the bills. One day you are married, and the next day you are divorced. A lot of my struggles in life came from struggles with my identity: what I thought I knew about myself or who I was as an individual.

There are three ways we form identity. The first way is "outside in" when we look outside ourselves for things we can use to form our identity. Who is my family, my profession, my tribe, group or nation? A very popular one today would be a political party. We look outside ourselves and form our identity with group associations. This can be unstable because one day it can be taken away or can change. The second way is "inside-out" where we form identity by looking inside ourselves at our heart. What we are passionate about shapes our identity. This could be our skills, successes, interests, hobbies or desires. This one can also be unstable because it is formed in our heart, and the heart can be fickle. It can be based on what we think we are good at and one day we will find someone better at it than we are. Finally we can form our identity "topside-down" by looking up to our Creator to determine who we are and listen to what He has to say about us. Our identity is then grounded in the unchanging nature of God. This is stable because He doesn't change.

As a police officer I was identified by my last name and usually a rank in front of it. I dressed up in a uniform and badge and was recognized by my community as "law and order" or by the children as a "SuperHero." Then through something traumatic, I woke up to the reality that I was not what I thought I was and found myself searching for identity.

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"Sanctification, being filled with the Holy Ghost or being born again, provides the power for us to live under the continual influence of the grace of Christ without sinning against God. Through being sanctified by the Holy Ghost, all evil natures and sinful propensities are destroyed and the heart is filled with pure love of God."

from **"The Doctrines and Discipline of Christ's Sanctified Holy Church**

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"Now know I that the Lord saveth his anointed; he will hear him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand.

<sup>7</sup>Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God."

**Psalms 20:6 - 7**

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God has given us a choice of an identity before we were even created. God told Jeremiah , *"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee."* (Jeremiah 1:5) He wants to give us an identity in him, *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them"* (Ephesians 2:10).

I just had to accept the identity that He was willing to give me freely. *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; Behold, all things are become new."* (2 Corinthians 5:17). A new identity and one that was not dependant on the former identity.

*"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."* (Romans 8:16-17)

What other better identity is there than to be a child of God? *"On Christ the solid rock I stand all other ground is sinking sand!"*

**-Bro. Mike Welch**



## Superior Force

**K**ing Hezekiah found himself in a tough spot. At 35 years old he was facing the Assyrian army which had gathered itself outside the walls of Jerusalem, and he had in his hands a letter demanding the surrender of the Judean capital.

Crowned king of Judah at 25, King Hezekiah witnessed the complete annihilation of the kingdom of Israel four years into his reign. By God's mercy Judah was spared, but for some time they were paying tribute to Assyria to keep peace. The payments had bankrupted Judah - the gold and silver was stripped off the temple and the king's house to pay the bills.

King Hezekiah was concerned about the prospect of Assyria turning its deadly attention back on Jerusalem and Judah, so he prepared; in the years after the fall of Israel, King Hezekiah fortified Jerusalem's walls, added watchtowers, diverted the water source for the city through a series of engineered conduits to insure a supply of clean water in event of siege, and he increased the size of the standing army while giving better training to the military leaders. Some accounts suggest that he even made leagues with Egypt for military support in case of Assyrian attack.

However, all the training and preparation seemed very insignificant with the might of the Assyrian empire positioned just outside the gates. The army encamped there, like a great lion, poised, ready to spring and devour its prey.

King Hezekiah had increased his might and his forces, but a superior force was here. So he did what he could. He ran. He ran straight to the temple and laid the letter from the Assyrian general out on the altar before the Lord, and cried out for help.

God responded through the prophet Isaiah, *"Therefore thus saith the Lord concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it. By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the Lord. For I will defend this city, to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake."* (2 Kings 19:32-34)

God's actions were swift and decisive: *"And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the Lord went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses."* (2 Kings 19:35)

Superior force indeed.

If one angel can easily master an entire army, then what can God do for you? As the hymn intones, "I know that He safely will carry me thro', No matter what evils betide, Why should I them care, tho' the tempest may blow, If Jesus is dwelling inside." Call on God for help today! He has the power and He is ready and willing to rescue you.

**-Bro. David Copeland**

# Purposeful Actions

Recently I had an opportunity to get back to an outdoor activity (fishing) that I used to do more often when I was younger. I am sure that most people can relate to this statement; “life got busy and other priorities had absorbed my time.” Fishing had really fallen off my radar. As God would have it, an opportunity presented itself for me to go with another brother in Christ. So, I purposefully re-arranged my schedule to make it happen. I was excited for the opportunity to go fishing; however, I was more excited to spend time with a brother that I do not typically spend time with outside of our worship.

The weather began a little cool but improved. The fishing was consistent with a slow and steady bite. However, the beauty of God’s creation was just phenomenal, and the fellowship was just as God intended it to be: peaceful, spiritual and fulfilling. It allowed for a time of spiritual renewal and reminded me of this verse and song:

*“One thing have I desired of the LORD,  
that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the  
house of the LORD all the days of my life, to  
behold the beauty of the LORD, and to  
enquire in his temple.” (Psalm 27:4)*

“We look around and see the beauty  
Of nature’s gift to everything.  
It was designed by God our Maker  
He gave the birds their song to sing.  
He painted all the lovely flowers  
To brighten days as they go by  
We see the wisdom of His power.  
Yes, there’s a God up in the sky.”

I passionately believe in the providence of God. He presents situations in our life that minister to us at just the right moment. I also believe that the Holy Spirit guides our actions so that we can take full advantage of God’s favor. May we all recognize the moving of the Holy Spirit and be purposeful in our actions when it is trying to invoke necessary change in our lives!

**-Bro. Scott Rogers**



“To carefully utilize our time and material resources in activities that contribute positively to our spiritual and physical welfare and that will exemplify a God-ordained life. To avoid inordinate preoccupation with pleasures and possessions; to avoid unbecoming behavior and speech; to avoid any attraction that would lead to our conscience being desensitized to the the teachings of the Bible and to the will of God. To be conscious of the example that we set in front of our children, our brothers and sisters, and to those over whom we have any opportunity to influence.”

**from “The Doctrines and Discipline of Christ’s Sanctified Holy Church**

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“For as the earth bringeth forth her  
bud, and as the garden causeth the  
things that are sown in it to spring  
forth; so the Lord God will cause  
righteousness and praise  
to spring forth before all  
the nations.” **Isaiah 61:11**