



Satan comes to steal, kill, and destroy.

But I have come so you may have life and have it more abundantly.

John 10:10 / 1st John 3:8(b) / 2nd Corinthians 5:16-17

Romans 8:6-7(a) For to be carnally minded (governed by the flesh) is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is at enmity against God. Strong's Concordance defines carnally minded (G5427) or "living in the flesh" (as the flesh), denoting mere human nature, the earthly nature of man apart from divine influence, and therefore prone to sin and opposed to God (Galatians 5:19). In today's terms "flesh" means living a soulish life, that is everything that we have lived good and bad through our experiences away/separate from God, i.e. coping and defense mechanisms or living from our own resources as opposed to God's; also known as in Adam, the state in which all humans are originally born. God defines this as in the world (for unbelievers), which Satan has dominion over (2nd Corinthians 4:4), whereas Jesus' dominion is the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven. However, as Christians, we can still live out of the flesh just as we did before becoming saved (our way and will) or we can walk in the spirit (Romans 12:2/Acts 17:26-28) and follow Jesus (Micah 6:8).

Over the course of our lives, every person's identity is being formed and shaped by our experiences, relationships, and the world around us. Often, we define ourselves through our families, jobs, financial status, successes, grades, appearance, what other people say about us and many other ways. But what happens to our identity when we experience failure or loss? The foundation of our identity is shaken and when circumstances change, our identity constantly changes too. A stable sense of self cannot exist when we base our identity on external things (Hebrews 12:25-29).

In the world, many people will try to define you by their terms, often stereotypical or derogatory, lifting themselves up by pushing you down (Romans 12:2-3). In doing so, they are lying to you and deceiving themselves by assuming they are the standard by which you are to be judged (Proverbs 21:2). Anyone who does this is playing God either consciously or unconsciously (Isaiah

53:6, Romans 3:10-18, Luke 6:42, Matthew 7:5). Sometimes the lie or circumstance is connected to a very real, and painful experience. Living our life defined by circumstances, lies and painful experiences as opposed to our identity in Christ affects and governs our thoughts, emotions, and behaviors. We should allow ourselves the time to grieve over these experiences and invite God into our place of brokenness. After you have surrendered the lie over to God, pray that He will help you believe the truth about who He says you are. In order to fight against our false beliefs, we must discover the exact belief we are allowing to form our identity. Once you recognize the false belief, surrender it over to God in repentance, which means in Greek "to change one's mind," then replace the lie with the truth found in Scripture. Ask God to make you aware of the false belief during those times you are not believing in who He says you are, then believe Him! (Ephesians 1:3-23) If we live out of an identity based on our relationship with Jesus, we won't base it on external circumstances (Proverbs 23:7).

(Jeremiah 1:5) God knew you personally before you were even born (Psalm 139:13-16). [He created you / He chose you](#). He set the times you would be born and die, as well as where that would be in time and place (Acts 17:26). He created you with meaning and a specific purpose, and a gift that He gave to no one else (Ephesians 2:10). We each are unique and fit into His plan (Acts 17:28). Our identity is formed in relationship to Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:6); but it is not about self-abnegation; it is about finding one's authentic, God-imaged self, maybe for the very first time. Every one of us is created in the image and likeness of God — which means every one of us is a unique, one-of-a-kind expression of God's splendor and felicity, an expression of God that will never be repeated. Union with God, therefore, means being a fully expressive of our God-given uniqueness as we can truly be.

God is sovereign and has all power and authority. God gave the first Adam dominion over the earth and empowered him with the ability to intuitively know the nature and name of all living things. In Genesis 2:18, the Bible says Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." Genesis 2: 10-21 states "Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam, there was not found a helper suitable for him.

So, the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place." Genesis 2:22-25 follows up "And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman because she was taken out of Man. Therefore, shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed."

In Genesis 3, we see where Satan confronts Eve and deceives her, but Adam was with her (She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it - Genesis 3(b)). He failed to discern the nature and deceitfulness of Satan and then call it as it was by telling Eve not to eat of the fruit of the tree which God had commanded. Through his failure to act out of the identity and authority God gave him, Adam surrendered his God-given identity to the situation and Satan. In

effect at that moment, Adam, as he was created, died, separating himself from God, The Source and Sustainer of life.

Jesus, the second Adam has power over all heaven and earth, and below. He gives us our identity. Just as God gave the first Adam authority to name all of the animals, God also gave Jesus all authority on heaven and earth, (Colossians 2:9; Matthew 28:18) and he renamed some of his disciples, e.g. Matthew 16:17-18, as God had renamed Abraham, and Adam had named the animals; names were assigned according to its nature, purpose or function. So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being;" the last Adam a life-giving spirit. (1 Corinthians 15:45, 2nd Corinthians 5:16), **Becoming authentic:** John 3:6 - Discovering our true selves cannot be done apart from the Holy Spirit. Even if we were born into good families, with excellent parents, (no one is perfect except Jesus, every family system is dysfunctional to some degree on a continuum) we still assumed [roles that form around whoever is at the center](#) of our lives and provided for our security, sustenance, etc. However, we are born again (John 3:3-7). Scriptures say that there is a time when we all must go beyond that role to who we were created to be (Matthew 10:34-39, 19:29; Mark 10:7-9; Luke 14:26-27(33); Matthew 23:9). This refers back to Genesis 2:24, Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. Jesus left his rightful place in Heaven next to the father, to join with us, he is the groom, we are to be His faithful bride (Romans 7:4; 2nd Corinthians 11:2, 1st Corinthians 6:15-17), we are one flesh, and a new creation (2nd Corinthians 5:17).