



I Am His

UNDERSTANDING YOUR IDENTITY
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

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ISBN 13: 978-1-4621-4515-7

Published by CFI, an imprint of Cedar Fort, Inc.
2373 W. 700 S., Suite 100, Springville, UT 84663
Distributed by Cedar Fort, Inc., www.cedarfort.com

Library of Congress Control Number: 2023934885

Cover design by Shawnda Craig
Cover design © 2023 Cedar Fort, Inc.
Edited and Typeset by Liz Kazandzhy

Printed in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed on acid-free paper

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1

I AM HIS

*The King of love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever.
—Henry W. Baker⁷*

Where did we come from? Why are we here? Where will we go after we die? As human beings, we often struggle to develop and clarify our own identity. Even the prophets Moses and David asked God, “Who am I?” (see Exodus 3:11 and 2 Samuel 7:18).

In the restored gospel, we might feel a bit self-assured because we know those answers. Or do we?

At a fireside in Las Vegas, Nevada, speaking to young adults, President Russell M. Nelson made a striking statement about our identity: “One of the most important things you need to learn in life is to know who you really are. When you begin to catch even a glimpse of how your Heavenly Father sees you and what He is counting on you to do for Him, your life will never be the same.”⁸

What exactly does he mean by this remarkable statement? Don’t we as members of the restored Church already know enough about who we “really are”?

We must have more to learn about this crucial topic if a prophet is telling covenant members of the Church that we might lack even a “glimpse” of how our Heavenly Father sees us and what He is counting on us to do, and

promising that our lives will never be the same if only we will catch this “glimpse.”

As followers of Christ’s restored gospel, of course we know many meaningful details about our divine identity, such as “I am a child of God.” President Nelson said, “I fear that you may have heard this truth so often that it sounds more like a slogan than divine truth.”² Are we so changed by our understanding of divine identity that our lives will “never be the same”? Or do we view ourselves day to day with a more worldly identity?

Whatever understanding we have, remembering our divine identity is not easy. We live in an increasingly secular world which, despite good intentions and powerful research, does not comprehend who we really are. In fact, the world regularly teaches that we are here by random accident and, by implication, without divine identity or eternal purpose.

So, how can we better understand and internalize our divine identity?

Jesus gives us the perfect example. He comprehended and accepted His identity in the premortal world and throughout His mortal life. He therefore received all our Heavenly Father wanted to give Him. He became all He was meant to become. He is our exemplar in this way, as in every good and great way. In fact, He literally is “the way” (John 14:6).

In contrast, Lucifer gives us an example of the dangers of failing to understand and accept who we are. Lucifer was also created and destined with divine purpose. But he did not desire to identify himself with God. Instead, he chose to abandon his true identity and create for himself an identity outside of and in opposition to God’s plan.

Satan desired to *redefine* himself. Maybe “redefining” yourself does not sound so bad. Yet we can’t improve on or add to God’s plans or designs for us. If we try to change our divine identity, all of which comes through Jesus Christ, we will only subtract from our divine destiny, and we may even destroy our limitless potential. Literally everything is at stake!

Sister Camille N. Johnson said:

I testify that the Savior is “the author and finisher of our faith.” Will you invite Him to be the author and finisher of your story?

He knows the beginning from the end. He was the Creator of heaven and earth. He wants us to return home to Him and our Heavenly Father. He has everything invested in us and wants us to succeed. . . .

Why do we want the Savior to be the author and the finisher of our stories? Because He knows our potential perfectly, He will take us to places we never imagined ourselves. He may make us a David or an Esther. He will stretch us and refine us to be more like Him.¹⁰

So, what is the simple, clear answer to who we are?

We are His.

Without the assurance of a Savior and Redeemer, we would not have been born to our parents in heaven. Without Jehovah, we would not have been born on earth. Without Jesus Christ, we cannot be reborn into immortality and eternal life.

We come from Him and through Him. He is the way, the truth and the life (see John 14:6).

Worldwide and through all time, we are equal in our most important identity: "I am His."

That means everything and forever. In fact, understanding the scope of our divine identity is so all-encompassing that the power of this concept is hard to comprehend. Perhaps an even imperfect analogy will help.

Rocket ships, complex and beautiful, are designed for great heights, lofty purposes, and important missions. The rocket is designed by some of the brightest, most creative, and most disciplined minds. Likewise, those who are given stewardship to pilot rockets are elite in their physical and intellectual ability and also in their trustworthiness. The rocket ship is a special, extremely precious, and highly engineered vehicle. If all goes well, it will rise above the earth itself, transcend the vastness of space, and do a marvelous and wonderful work.

Like a perfectly performing rocket ship, Jesus accepts His divine role and executes His special mission completely and with exactness. Because He humbly fulfills His great task, He soars to unimaginable heights, and we breathlessly adore, admire, and worship Him. He consequently puts Himself in a position to do all His Designer created Him to do: love without limits, set the perfect example, teach with stunning clarity and power, create worlds without number, save and redeem us from death and sin, and judge us with perfect understanding, justice, and mercy. Jesus Christ fulfills with faithfulness every part of His transcendent identity.

A rocket ship is so special that it is hard to imagine anyone deciding to use it for something other than its designed purpose. Just try. It's not easy to visualize that.

Maybe start by imagining a massive rocket: newly created, fully fueled, gleaming in the sun on the launch pad, with expert astronauts in place, ready to gloriously blast off into space to perform a vital mission. Then, for unexplained reasons, the mission is abandoned. The owner of the rocket ship tells the astronauts to unstrap, come down, take off their suits, and return home. Confusion results. Then the rocket ship is coarsely cut in half and refurbished into a trinket store, never to rise above the world or fulfill its designed purposes.

This might briefly be amusing at best, but ultimately such changes in the true identity of the rocket ship would be short-sighted, sad, and possibly harmful.

If God is the tree, then denying our divine relationship to Him is like cutting off the branch we are sitting on. When we fail to recognize who we are and fail to do what we are designed to do, the results are short-sighted, harmful, and sad in the most consequential, profound, and eternal ways.

Elder Dale G. Renlund said, "The third truth in the opening paragraph of the Young Women theme is that we have 'a divine nature.' This is intrinsic to who we are. It is spiritually 'genetic,' inherited from our heavenly parents, and requires no effort on our part. This is our most important identity, regardless of how else we choose to identify ourselves."¹¹

Satan takes misuse of his own design to a new, dark low. He descends far beneath the idea of a trinket store. His actions are similar to deciding to use the rocket as a means to control others, or as a weapon to cause damage, maim, kill, and even destroy an entire world.

Like Jesus, we are the children of God, created in His image and sent forth with divine purpose and destiny. Like Jesus, our challenge is to fully realize and embrace our destiny. Following His example of understanding and realizing our divine identity is among the most life-changing things we can do.

Sister Michelle D. Craig said, "Perhaps the most important things for us to see clearly are who God is and who we really are—sons and daughters of heavenly parents, with a 'divine nature and eternal destiny.' Ask God to reveal

these truths to you, along with how He feels about you. The more you understand your true identity and purpose, soul deep, the more it will influence everything in your life.”¹²

As people of faith, we might feel that we already know our identity and are comfortable with our understanding of who we are, why we are here, and where we will go after we die. However, let’s take another look. Let’s see if we can find greater understanding in this area of promised clarity and power. Maybe we can learn specific ways to act on what we know. Perhaps we can catch that “glimpse” of who we really are, and if we do, our lives will never be the same.

That’s a prophetic promise.

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- ⁷. Henry W. Baker, “The King of Love,” *Masterpieces of Religious Verse* (New York: Harper, 1948), no. 783.
 - ⁸. Russell M. Nelson, quoted in “President Russell M. Nelson Speaks to Millennials about Being Happy,” *Church News*, Feb. 23, 2018.
 - ⁹. Russell M. Nelson, “Choices for Eternity,”
 - ¹⁰. Camille N. Johnson, “Invite Christ to Author Your Story,” *Liabona*, Nov. 2021, 80.
 - ¹¹. Dale G. Renlund, “Your Divine Nature and Eternal Destiny,” *Liabona*, May 2022, 75.
 - ¹². Michelle D. Craig, “Eyes to See,” *Ensign* or *Liabona*, Nov. 2020, 15–16.

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