

Going Deeper - IDENTITY

Saanich Baptist Church
January 28th, 2024

A Christian (Disciple?) is someone who finds their identity, purpose and belonging in God's design.

Christianity without the living Christ is inevitably Christianity without discipleship, and Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Discipleship is the continual surrender to Jesus' grace and truth in of all of life, for all of life.

- Grace & Truth: Gospel
 - Surrender: Repent & Believe
 - In all of life: Identity, Purpose, Belonging
 - For all of life: Past (Shame) - Present (Anger) Future (Fear)
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DESIGN: Image of God

IDENTITY - How we perceive ourselves determines how we interact with the world

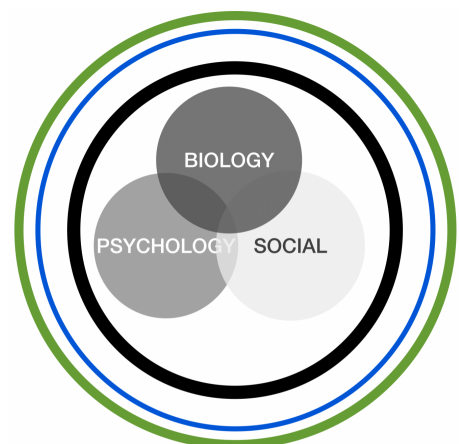
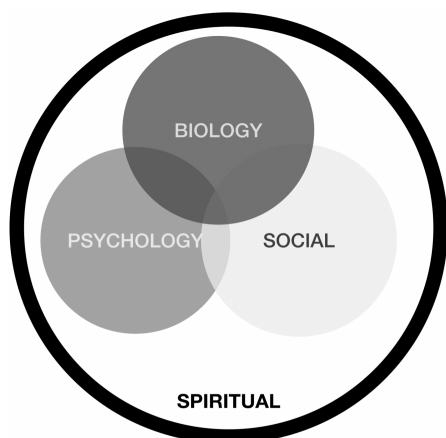
Q: How accurate is my view of how others perceive me?

Genesis 1:27, So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.

Imago Dei

- Imago - Not divine but exposed to and reflecting God's glory to the rest of creation, with inherent & universal dignity.
- Dei - Complete and complementary with a primarily spiritual self-understanding.

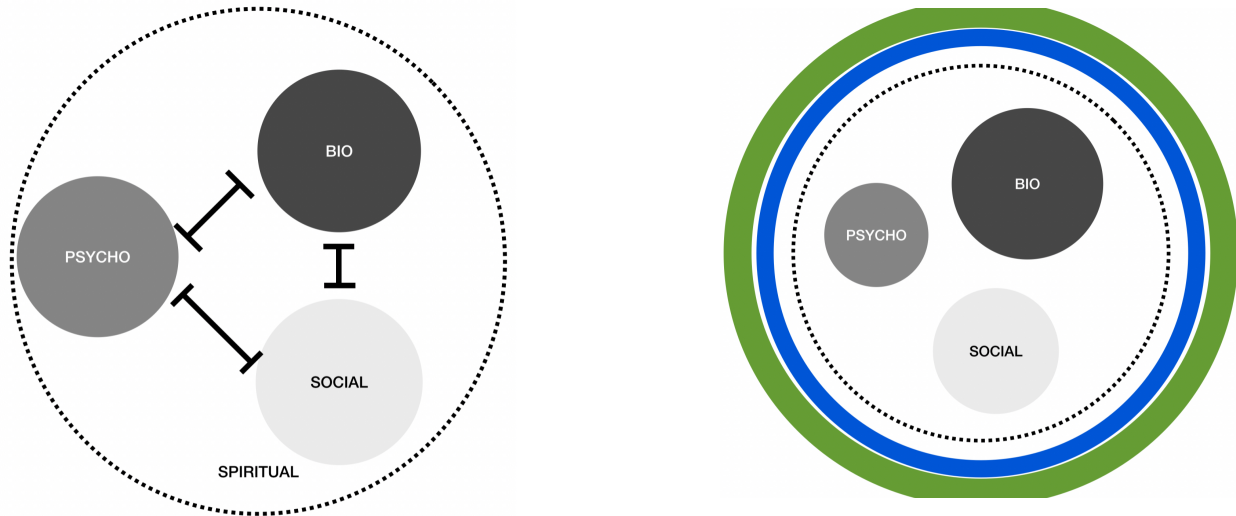
IMAGING God's glory to all of creation is the intention behind our IDENTITY.



Distortion: They knew they were naked.

Genesis 2:7, Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked;

- De-integrated self-awareness resulting in fear, anger and shame.
- Disconnected from God and one another
- Spiritually dead - Fragmented self-understanding
- Vulnerable to relationships and environments.



Fragmented & Fragmenting - Rather than living out of an singular IMAGING identity we find ourselves CONFUSED by competing identifiers, INFLUENCED by social constructs, and ATTRACTED to subcultures.

Q: What competing identifiers do you struggle with?

Where are you?	I am AFRAID - Doubtful of the truth.
Who told you?	I am ANGRY - Defensive in self-protection.
What did you do?	I am ASHAMED - Distracted by sin's & its consequences.

REDEMPTION - Who Christ is & What Christ has Done

"If you want to know who God is, look at Jesus. If you want to know what it is to be human, look at Jesus." - N.T. Wright

Who was Jesus? Spirit-Filled, Son of God.

What did Jesus do? Forsaken in death yet resurrected in power.

Romans 6:1-4 CSB, [1] What should we say then? Should we continue in sin so that grace may multiply? [2] Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it? [3] Or

are you unaware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? [4] Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.

Galatians 4:4-7 CSB, [4] When the time came to completion, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, [5] to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. [6] And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!" [7] So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then God has made you an heir.

RECONNECTED

- I am ACCEPTED - Child of God, through justification by Christ's death.
- I have AUTHORITY - Over Sin, Satan & Death, through power by Christ's resurrection.
- I am NOT ALONE - Indwelt by the Spirit, through Christ's ascension.

Being RE-INTEGRATED

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 CSB, [17] Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. [18] We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit.

RENEWAL - Christ's Work in Me Producing Faith

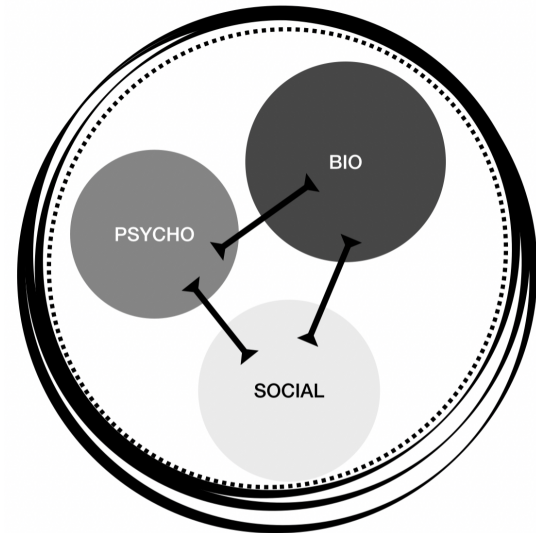
Mark 1:15 CSB

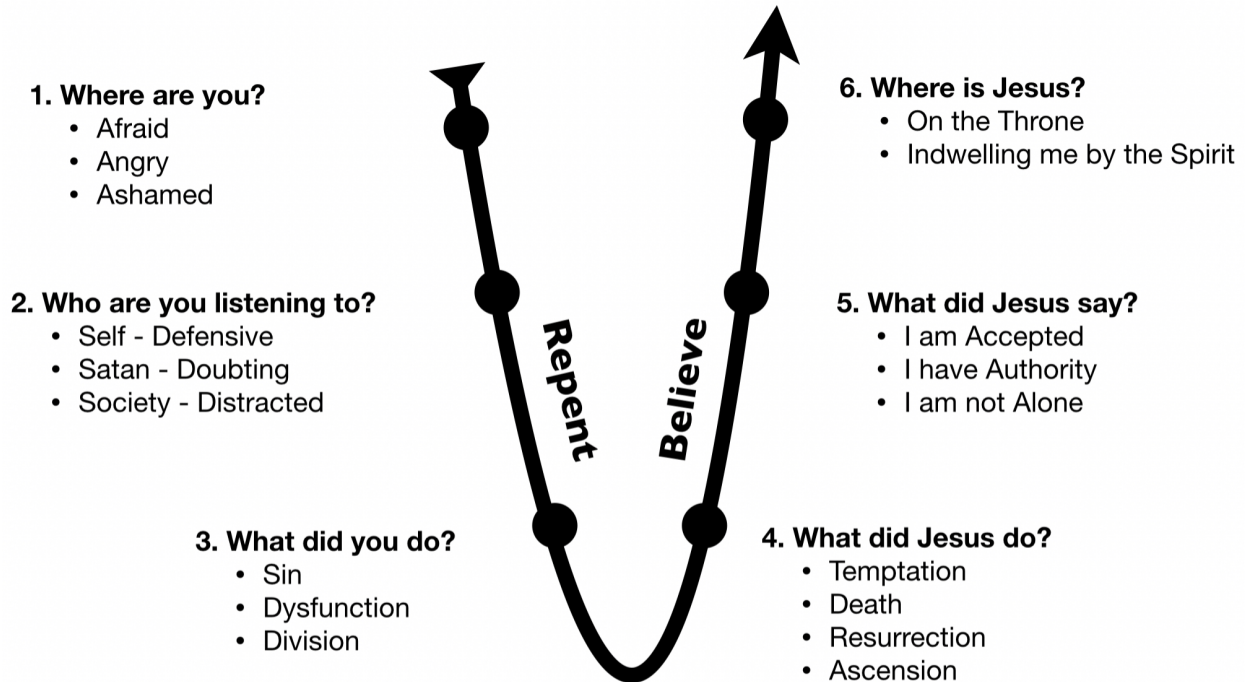
[15] "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

- Repentance - Accurate view of God. Accurate view of self.
- Belief - Choosing to trust God by surrendering to Jesus' grace & truth.
- Faith - Who Christ is IN me is the greatest identifier.

Romans 6:11, So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 2:20 CSB, [20] I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.





Q: Which of fear, anger, & shame do you struggle with the most?

Hebrews 11:1 CSB, Faith is the reality of what is hoped for and the proof what is not seen.

- Faith - Establishing and being Re-established in Christ
- Prayer - God's PRESENCE expressed in Christ.
 - Bible - God's PROMISES fulfilled in Christ
 - Church - God's PEOPLE being formed by Christ.

This Week: At A Table...

- Ask & Be Asked
- How have you seen Christ working in you?
 - When were you afraid, angry, ashamed?
 - Who were you listening to?
 - What did you do?