

24/7 THE BEGINNING

HOW TO AVOID AN IDENTITY CRISIS

Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created human beings in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." GENESIS 1:26-28 TNIV

1. Accept the fact that you were made by God

So God created human beings in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. GENESIS 1:27 TNIV

What are mere mortals that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned them with glory and honor. PSALM 8:4-5 TNIV

... God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children. ROMANS 8:15-17 THE MESSAGE

2. Believe we were designed to be like God

Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule..." GENESIS 1:26 TNIV

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" GENESIS 3:6-11 NIV

Now we see things imperfectly as in a poor mirror... 1 CORINTHIANS 13:12 NIV

- **God's values are different from ours**

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height... The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." 1 SAMUEL 16:7 NIV

The World's Values VS God's Values

Outer Appeal

Inner Character

3. Confess your deep need to be loved by God

God blessed them... GENESIS 1:28 TNIV

... the LORD who created you says, "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine... For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior... you are precious to me. You are honored, and I love you." ISAIAH 43:1-4 NLT

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ROMANS 5:8 TNIV

So you should not be like cowering, fearful slaves. You should behave instead like God's very own children, adopted into his family—calling him "Father, dear Father." For his Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that we are God's children. And since we are his children, we will share his treasures—for everything God gives to his Son, Christ, is ours, too... ROMANS 8:15-17 NLT