



# MATTHEW



**Why was Jesus baptized?**

**What does Jesus' baptism  
mean for us?**

I consider this incident Jesus' first miracle: the miracle of his humility. The first thing Jesus does for the human race is go down with it into the deep waters of repentance and baptism. Jesus' whole life will be like this. It is well known that Jesus ends his ministry on a cross between thieves; it deserves to be as well known that he begins his ministry in a river among sinners. From his baptism to his execution Jesus stays low, at our level, identifying with us at every point, becoming as completely one with us in our humanist as, in the church's teaching, he is believed to be completely one with God in eternity.

Dale Bruner

He became what we are so that we could become what he is.

Athanasius

# Union with Christ

# 1. Intimacy

However, God has listened; he has paid attention to the sound of my prayer. Blessed be God! He has not turned away my prayer or turned his faithful love from me.

Psalm 66:19-20



For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Romans 8:14-17

## 2. Identity

# Sources of Identity

- **Performance:** I am what I achieve

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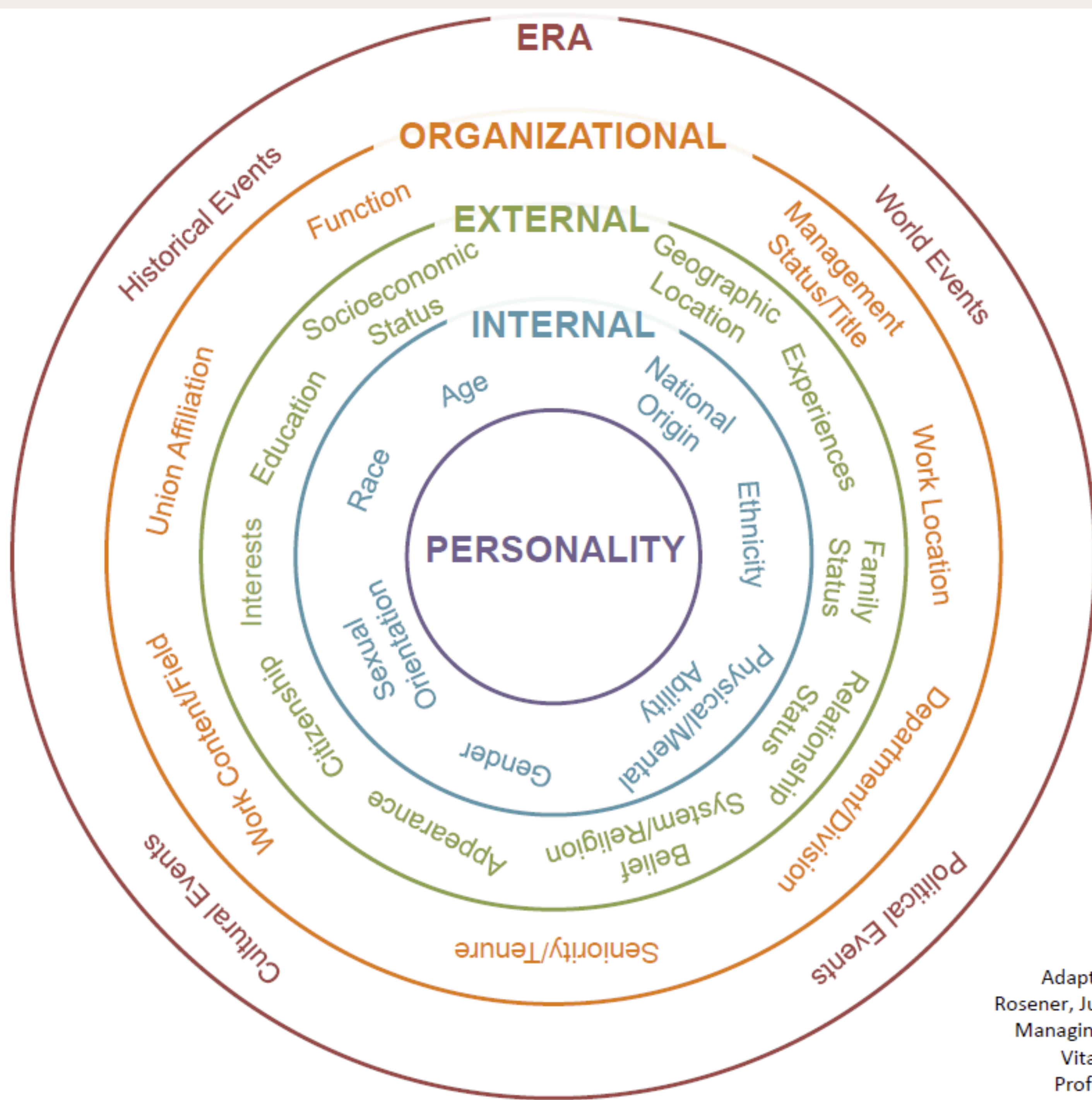
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- **Pleasure:** I am what I desire

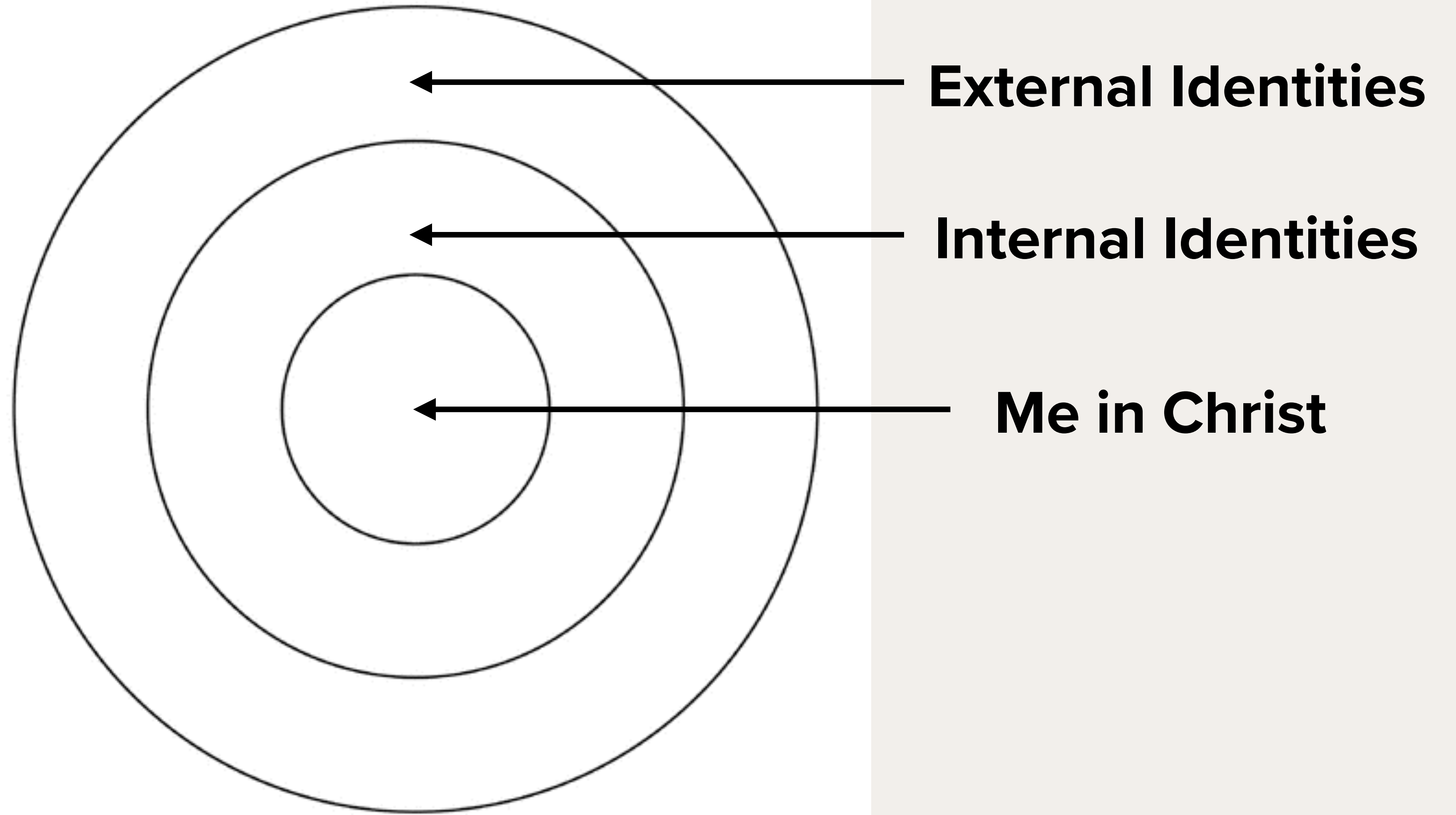
# Sources of Identity

- **Performance:** I am what I achieve
- **Possessions:** I am what I have
- **Political Ideology:** I am my party platform
- **Pleasure:** I am what I desire
- **Pain:** I am my trauma



Adapted from: Loden, Marily & Rosener, Judy, "Workforce America! Managing Employee Diversity as a Vital Resource," McGraw-Hill Professional Publishing, 1990.





**External Identities**

**Internal Identities**

**Me in Christ**

Christians affirm a foundation for identity that is absolutely unique in the marketplace of spiritualities. Whether we realize it or not, our being is grounded in God's love...Love is our identity and our calling...In order for our knowing of God's love to be truly transformational, it must become the basis of our identity. Our identity is who we experience ourselves to be - the I each of us carries within. An identity grounded in God would mean that when we think of who we are, the first thing that would come to mind is our status as someone who is deeply loved by God.

David Benner

# 3. Spiritual Authority

This is my servant; I strengthen him, this is my chosen one; I delight in him. I have put my Spirit on him; he will bring justice to the nations. He will not cry out or shout or make his voice heard in the streets. He will not break a bruised reed, and he will not put out a smoldering wick; he will faithfully bring justice.

Isaiah 42:1-3

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:9

# Invitation

Being born again happens in an instant. Learning to live as a child of God takes a lifetime.

Dr. Derwin Gray





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