



A NEW IDENTITY

1.2

Each member has matured in a life that reflects and is aligned with their identity as God's son or daughter.

In Lesson 0.2, we talked about your miraculous rebirth and how you are now a literal new creation. We have been reborn into the people we were intended to be when God created mankind originally. We looked at 1 Peter 2:9-10 which introduced your new identity.

1 Peter 2:9-10 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (10) Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

These questions come to mind: How do we mature in this identity? How do we own that we are not only made in God's image, but are now His children?

Q. What do you think “made in the image of God” means for you personally?

We were originally created to be a pure image bearer of God on this earth. God created the universe as a temple for himself and we were to be His image in this temple. We were also the caretakers of the earth He created; we were His priests here.

We lost the purity of our identity at the fall as told in Genesis 3. (You can look at that more closely in KMI 0.2.) In order to have our place re-established something new had to happen. We had to be re-born.

Q. What is your current understanding of the truth that you are reborn?

Open John Chapter 3

John 3:3-8 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (4) Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” (5) Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (7) Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ (8) The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

GROWING UP

Since we already talked about being born again in KMI 0.2, we need to look at how being made new affects us throughout our lives. The Bible talks about maturity ([1 Corinthians 2:6](#), [Ephesians 4:13](#), [Hebrews 6:1](#)) or being spiritually grown up. We are expected to grow into maturity in this new identity as God's child.

Physically, the older I get, the more I look like my dad. This is true of us spiritually as well. The more we mature spiritually, the more become like (look like) God. He is literally our spiritual Father.

*So how does one become born again, or born of God? Jesus used an earthly metaphor to explain a spiritual idea. When a baby is born, a new life emerges that did not previously exist. The baby is a brand-new being **who begins to grow to look like the parents**. A puppy grows up to look like a dog. A calf grows to look like a cow. An infant grows to look like an adult human. So it is with those born of God.*

*2 Corinthians 5:17 says that, if anyone is in Christ, he is a “new creature.” Later in John 3, Jesus explains how to become born of God: “Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but shall have everlasting life” (verse 16). **When we are born into the family of God ([John 1:12](#)), we grow to look more like our Father.***

i John 3:9 describes a person who has been born of God: “No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning because they have been born of God.” God our Father is holy, and He desires that His children become holy like He is ([1 Peter 1:15–16](#)). When we are born of God, we have a new heart, one that wants to please God ([Ezekiel 36:26](#); [2 Corinthians 5:9](#); [Colossians 1:10](#)). This does not come about by good intentions or white-knuckled effort. We please our new Father by surrendering to His Holy Spirit who lives within us. We allow Him to change our desires, our goals, and our will to conform to His ([Romans 8:29](#); [Philippians 2:13](#)). As a baby grows to look like the parents to whom it was born, so do we grow to be more like our heavenly Father when we are born of God ([Philippians 3:10](#); [Romans 6:1–2](#)). ([Got Questions.org](#))

Q. Describe some ways you’ve noticed this new identity maturing in you. (For example, are you less tempted by certain sins than before? Are you more likely to pay attention to someone else’s relationship with God than you used to?)

SUMMARY

We are re-born into the family of God and are now becoming more like our spiritual Father. This is what the Bible refers to as maturing or maturity. The more you look like God in your thoughts and actions the less you will look like the world that God redeemed you from. Be blessed by that.

LEADERSHIP CONNECTION QUESTION

Q. Has becoming more spiritually mature changed your leadership or your approach to people?

RESOURCES FOR NEXT STEPS

- **Watch**
ReFrame Episode 3: Creation and Fall
<https://www.reframecourse.com/episodes/episode-3>
- **The Sacred Work Podcast (Download Spotify)**
<https://open.spotify.com/EPISODE/6FBCL8QFQTVRESM9XSUT6J?SI=D525C9AC35914DCB>
- **KMI 3.1 Sacred Work**
Each member understands the sacred dignity of work, both their own and of those they work with.