

# A STRONG IDENTITY

FOUR BIBLICAL TRUTHS ABOUT YOUR PRIMARY STANDING



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Knowing who you are  
determines how you live

Do you see yourself as having great value?

Do you feel safe and secure?

Are you confident and courageous?

Are you grateful for the way God has made you?

Do you know your purpose and are you living for that purpose?

Do you have an inner freedom?

Are you excited for the future?



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# The Epidemic of Insecurity

Beverly D. Flaxington *April 2015 Psychology Today*

...At some point in your life, somewhere in your mind you started comparing yourself to others, and that's the point when your self-esteem—and belief in your world supremacy—suffered its first blow...

Our self-esteem is tried on an everyday basis, and quite frankly—unless you are a complete narcissist or live on a deserted island—it's rather common and unavoidable. Prodigal celebrities, critical bosses, judgmental peers, successful neighbors, and overachieving siblings can all make you feel like you haven't done as well or accomplished as much...

Waning self-assurance fosters insecurity, which in turn breeds a whole host of unbecoming emotions and behaviors: anxiety, envy, depression, obesity, alcoholism, and other similar related disorders and phobias sprout as a result of low self-confidence.



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# The Epidemic of Insecurity Beverly D. Flaxington

*April 2015 Psychology Today*

Following these steps will help you combat your insecurities and strengthen your confidence in your own worth and abilities:

Revise your self-talk.

Make a list of three things you do well each day.

Refuse to compare yourself.

Set achievable goals and make plans to reach them.

Prioritize what's important each day.



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# Identity

*the fact of being who or what a person is*

Who are you? What are you? How do you find out?

“What we know matters but who we are matters more.”

— Brené Brown

“When I discover who I am, I’ll be free.”

— Ralph Ellison

" The secret of life is knowing who God really is and knowing who you really are."



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# Our identity is tied directly to our worth?

Our need for worth is so powerful that whatever we base our identity and value on we essentially 'deify.' We will look to it with all the passion and intensity of worship and devotion, even if we think ourselves as highly irreligious.

*Timothy Keller*



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A strong identity is discovering  
who you really are and  
living out of that truth



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**Luke 23:34** Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

**Acts 2:14** Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you...

**Acts 16:24-25** ...he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God

**Acts 7:59-60** While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

**Acts 4:13** When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.



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# We can only discover who we truly are from the one who created us

The meek man is not a human mouse afflicted with a sense of his own inferiority. Rather he may be in his moral life as bold as a lion and as strong as Samson; but he has stopped being fooled about himself. He has accepted God's estimate of his own life. He knows he is as weak and helpless as God declared him to be, but paradoxically, he knows at the same time that he is in the sight of God of more importance than angels. In himself, nothing; in God, everything. That is his motto. *A. W. Tozer*



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# We have been given a new identity

**2 Corinthians 5:16-18** So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.

**Colossians 3:1-4** Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

**Romans 5:1-2** Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.



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# “A place of undeserved privilege where we now stand”

Paul sees all kinds of sins in himself and all kinds of accomplishments too, but he refuses to connect them with his identity.

*--Timothy Keller*

“Define yourself radically as one beloved by God. This is the true self. Every other identity is illusion.”

*— Brennan Manning*



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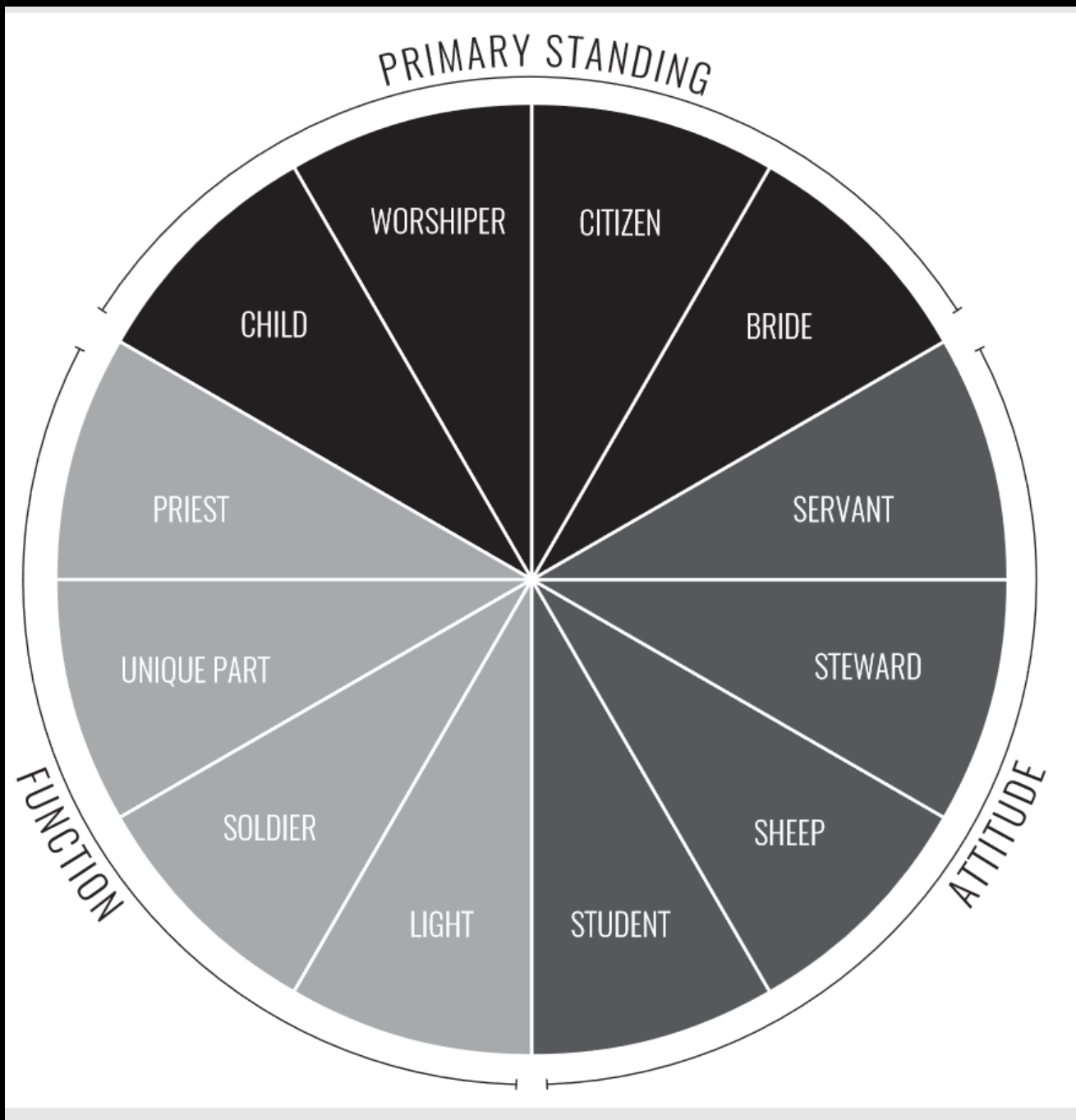


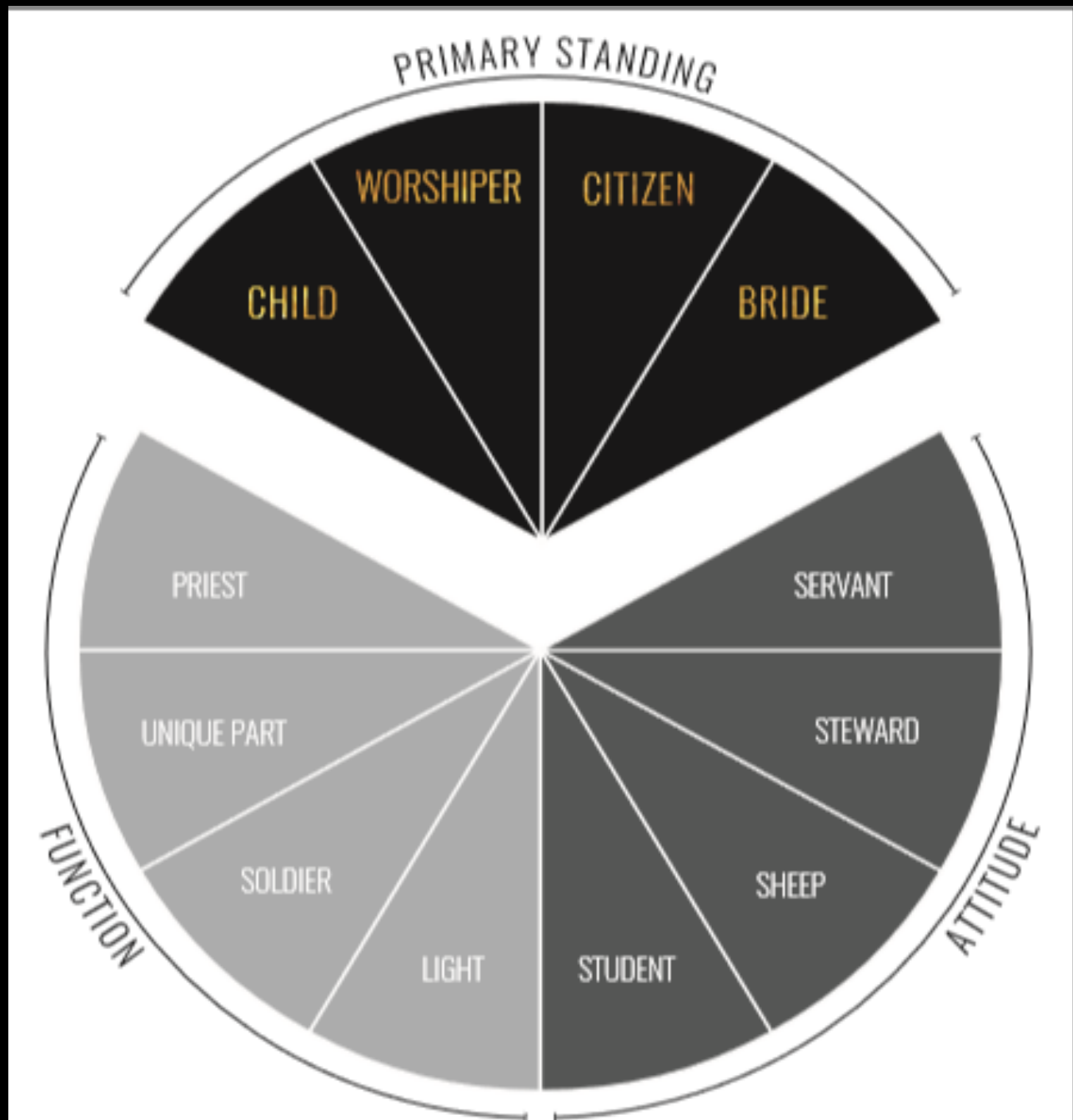
"Christianity is one beggar  
telling another beggar where he  
found the bread."

- D. T. Niles



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# Live according to who God says you are

**Romans 6:13-14** Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.



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# Challenge:

“The Bible says that our real problem is that every one of us is building our identity on something besides Jesus.” *Timothy Keller*

Pray and ask God to show you what things you have built your identity on other than Jesus.

Turn from those things, receive God’s love and begin embracing who God says you are.



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