

# Identity Triangle

Following Jesus in Identity

**FATHER: The Perfect Dad**

WE: Family of God

ME: Beloved Child of Abba



**SPIRIT: Sender & Guide**

WE: Missionaries

ME: Temple of the Holy Spirit

**SON: The Servant King**

WE: Servants of the King

ME: Disciple of Jesus

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## BEST PRACTICES FOR USING THE IDENTITY TRIANGLE

**Remember this symbol is designed to be three things:**

**A Picture to understand key ideas regarding disciple-making:**

What does this tell me about being a disciple?

**A Mirror to see our reflection in:**

What does this tell me about myself?

## **A Window to look at all of life through:**

What should I do about it?

We encourage you to read through the summaries five times before sharing it.

Journal on the picture, mirror, and window questions above before sharing this. The degree to which you engage this symbol personally, is the degree to which you will be able to lead others into engagement.

There are two versions included here: A four-minute summary and an extended summary.

We encourage you to draw and explain the four-minute summary out loud three times before sharing it with someone else.

When you share it with someone, draw the Identity Triangle on a napkin or sheet of paper. Leave that drawing with them.

Remember to read the situation and the spiritual interest of the person you are sharing this with. It may be wisest to just share the brief highlight. Or if the interest is there, use the extended version, making it conversational by using the discussion questions.

After you share it, encourage the person you've shared it with to share it with another spiritually curious or hungry friend or family member within the next few days. In so doing, you are training every disciple to be a disciple who can make disciples from day one. This builds in reproduction and multiplication as the norm for every disciple.

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## **FOUR MINUTE SUMMARY**

Who am I? What is my identity? Everyone struggles to answer these questions.

What are some common things on which people base their identity? Politics. Sexuality. Passions or Gifts. Careers or work. Roles and Relationships. It's usually some combination of all of these. Most of us just pick some combination of 3-5 roles as the foundation for our core identity. For example, I could say, "My identity is comprised of my family roles: Spouse, Father, Son, and Brother, along with my work roles: Pastor and Teacher. I'm also passionate about the outdoors and music, so you could say I'm a hiker and musician." (Customize this based on your current roles)

In each of these roles, we have this equation running that gives us our sense of worth within that role. Once people have a sense of what their roles are, their sense of value on a daily basis is based on the following equation.

Identity or Worth = My Performance X Other's Opinions.

That's how most people get their sense of identity and worth. How do I know who I am? What are my roles? Then how do I know if I have worth in those roles? Well, how well am I doing at this current role and what do other people think of me?

How well is this working for us? When we reflect on that, it's easy to see how vulnerable this combination of roles, performance, and opinions leaves us. Most of us struggle with this constant sense of just not measuring up. On top of all that, many of our roles end up competing with each other, leaving us caught in a constant tension of robbing Peter to pay Paul. We end up running back and forth between our different roles, trying to please everyone, but feeling like we're cheating everyone.

Wouldn't you agree, we need something deeper than seasonal roles, our performance level and other people's opinions in shaping our identity? If there was something with more permanence, that could last through a lifetime, would you want to know it? I sure would! How can we find a deeper identity that leads to a sense of peace and purpose?

Jesus came to reveal to us our deepest and truest Identity. As disciples, we follow Jesus in Identity. Jesus offers us an Identity in a Story where everyone can find their unique purpose, deep transformation, and a radical sense of belonging. The Identity Triangle is a simple way to explain the Identity to which Jesus is inviting us.

The Identity Triangle is built on this idea: If we know who God is, then we will know who we are.

We can only understand the question, "Who am I?" by asking first, "Who is God?" Look at the three aspects of God's identity revealed to us by Jesus.

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."* Matthew 28:19 (NIV)

Baptizing people *into the name of* is about establishing them into their new Trinitarian Identity. In Christ, God is our Father and we are His Family; Jesus is our King and we are His Servants; the Holy Spirit is our Guide and Sender and we are His Missionaries.

### **The Father is our Perfect Dad.**

That means...

WE: The Family of God

Me: Beloved Child of Abba

If God is our Perfect Dad, then we now understand ourselves to be members of a royal family, the family of God, made up of former ragamuffins. We live as dedicated brothers and sisters, caring for, supporting, and challenging each other. Each of us is a beloved son or daughter of Abba, in whom the Father is pleased. He's crazy about us.

### **Jesus is our Servant King.**

That means...

We: Servants of the King

Me: Disciple of Jesus

If Jesus is our Servant King, we now understand ourselves to be servants of the King. Just like Jesus laid down his life for us, we will lay down our lives for others in service. Each of us is a disciple of Jesus. Being a disciple means following Jesus as Lord, doing whatever Jesus teaches us to do, whenever He tells us to do it and wherever He wants us to do it.

### **The Holy Spirit is our Sender and Guide.**

That means...

We: Missionaries

Me: Temple of the Holy Spirit

If the Spirit is our Sender and Guide, then we now understand ourselves to be the Sent Ones, each of us a missionary filled with the Spirit. We will join God in his work of redeeming people and places through Jesus, starting where we live, work, study, and play.

From His identity foundation, our identity flows.

Our new identity in Jesus is not contingent on our changing roles, our performance or the opinions of others. This identity is built on an eternal foundation, based on what Jesus thinks of us, His finished work on the cross, and the unchanging character of God, revealed fully in the person of Jesus.

See longer explanation here:

<https://www.kcunderground.org/resources-content/1o48jq1r602r7t7wazhn9bz9jsq511>