

Freely Embracing My Identity
February 21, 2016

¹² But to all who did accept him and believe in him he gave the right to become children of God.

John 1:12 (NCV)

HOW TO FREELY EMBRACE MY IDENTITY:

**1. I WILL START DEFINING MYSELF, NOT BY MY _____
OR OTHER'S _____, BUT BY GOD'S _____.**

¹ See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!

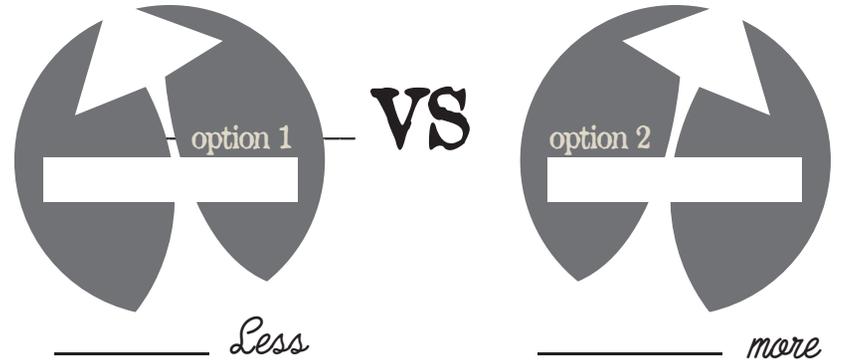
1 John 3:1 (NLT)

¹⁶ So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view... ¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, **no longer counting people's sins against them.**

2 Corinthians 5:16-19 (NLT) emphasis added

Scripture translation key: New Living Translation (NLT) New International Version (NIV)
Center Church San Diego podcasts available on iTunes and online at centerchurchsd.com

Pursuing the Path



√ _____ on God is the start; _____ God is the result.

2. I WILL STOP BELIEVING GOD'S LOVE IS _____ OR _____.

⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶ So we praise God for the glorious grace he has **poured out on us** who belong to his dear Son. ⁷ He is **so rich in kindness and grace** that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.

Ephesians 1:4-7 (NLT) emphasis added

3. I WILL RELY ON GOD'S LOVE TO _____ ME.

¹⁶ And so we **know and rely** on the love God has for us. God is love.

1 John 4:16 (NIV) emphasis added

√ Many people _____ God loves them; few people _____ on it.

√ Many of us think God will love us if and when we _____.
In fact, God loves us _____ you can change.

¹⁷ And I pray that you, being **rooted and established in love**, ¹⁸ may have **power**, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:17b-21 (NIV) emphasis added



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HOW TO FREELY EMBRACE MY IDENTITY:

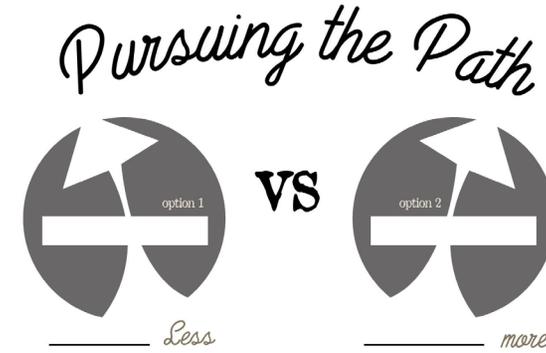
1. I WILL START DEFINING MYSELF, NOT BY MY EFFORT OR OTHER'S LABELS, BUT BY GOD'S LOVE.

¹ See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!

1 John 3:1 (NLT)

¹⁶ So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view... ¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, **no longer counting people's sins against them.**

2 Corinthians 5:16-19 (NLT) emphasis added



✓ **Depending on God is the start; PLEASING God is the result.**

2. I WILL STOP BELIEVING GOD'S LOVE IS LIMITED OR CONDITIONAL.

⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶ So we praise God for the glorious grace he has **poured out on us** who belong to his dear Son. ⁷ He is **so rich in kindness and grace** that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.

Ephesians 1:4-7 (NLT) emphasis added

3. I WILL RELY ON GOD'S LOVE TO CHANGE ME.

¹⁶ And so we **know and rely** on the love God has for us. God is love.

1 John 4:16 (NIV) emphasis added

✓ **Many people KNOW God loves them; few people RELY on it.**

✓ **Many of us think God will love us if and when we CHANGE. In fact, God loves us SO THAT you can change.**

¹⁷ And I pray that you, being **rooted and established in love**, ¹⁸ may have **power**, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

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