

Who I Am

Tell me whom you love and I will tell you who you are.

A. Houssaye

Committing yourself is a way of finding out who you are. A person finds identity by identifying.

Anonymous

The most difficult thing in life is to know yourself.

Thales

Ninety percent of the world's woes come from people not knowing themselves, their abilities, their frailties, and even their real virtues. Most of us go all the way through life as complete strangers to ourselves—so how can we know anyone else?

Sydney J. Harris

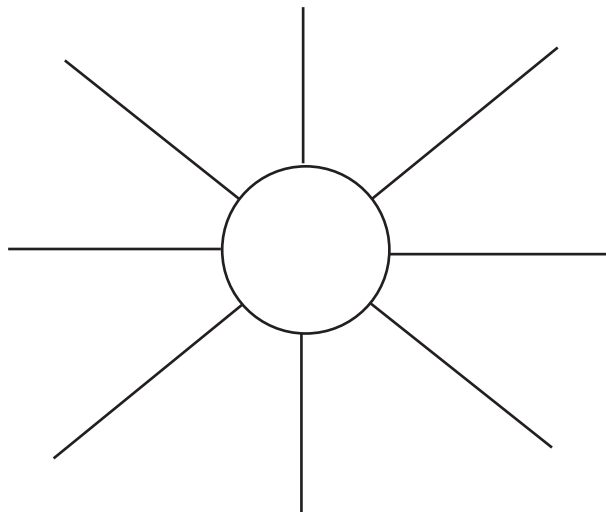
I yam what I yam.

Popeye

“Who am I?” leads inevitably to the equally important question “Whose am I?”— for there is no self outside of relationship.

Parker Palmer

Below, create a chart that depicts the elements that make up your identity. Include the different roles you play. Begin by writing “Me” in the circle. Then, on each of the radiating lines, write an identifying word, for example, “son,” “brother,” “musician,” “helpful,” etc. Add as many more lines as you wish. Be thorough.



The Power of Paul

Key Points of Paul's Letters

- Christ's Death and Resurrection are the center of God's salvific plan.
- The Good News of Christ is for all people.
- The Church is the Body of Christ on earth.
- Jesus redeemed us by his Passion, Death, and Resurrection.
- Baptism and faith justify us.
- The Holy Spirit builds up the Church and enables us to call God, Father.

Creed of Those Who Are Called

Based on the Letters of St. Paul

We believe that God chose us in him before the world began, to be holy and blameless in his sight.

We believe that those whom he foreknew he predestined to share the image of his Son.

We believe that God who had set us apart before we were born and called us by his favor chose to reveal his Son to us, that we might spread among all people the good tidings concerning him.

We believe that God has saved us and has called us to a holy life, not because of any merit of ours, but according to his own design – the grace held out to us in Christ Jesus before the world began.

We believe that Christ Jesus has judged us faithful and worthy by calling us to his service.

We believe that we are apostles by vocation, servants of Christ Jesus set apart to announce the Gospel of God.

Considering our vocation, we believe that God chose the weak of this world to shame the strong, so that our faith would not rest on human wisdom but on the power of God.

We believe that to each one God has given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

We believe that we must live a life worthy of the calling which we have received, with perfect humility, meekness, and patience, seeking to grow in all things toward him.

We believe that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who have been called according to his decree.

We believe in him whose power now at work in us can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine.

We believe that he who has begun the good work in us will carry it through to completion, right up to the day of Christ Jesus, because he who calls us is faithful.

Summing Up Paul's Ministry

Paul's life is an unparalleled adventure story of commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. He eloquently describes his motivation, "I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me" (Gal 2:20). Paul felt this divine love so deeply that he felt compelled to preach this Good News to everyone. Because of his call to spread the Gospel, he founded countless churches, opened the Gospel to Gentiles, wrote faith-rousing letters that teach us yet today, and inspired loyal disciples to continue his work of instruction and encouragement by writing letters in his name. Paul was a model disciple of Christ, worthy of emulation for his courage alone. He wrote:

Five times at the hands of the Jews, I received forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I passed a night and a day on the deep; on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my own race, dangers from Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea, dangers among false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many sleepless nights, through hunger and thirst, through frequent fastings, through cold and exposure. And apart from these things, there is the daily pressure upon me of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is led to sin, and I am not indignant?

Themes of the Catholic Epistles

James 1 Peter 2 Peter 1 John 2 John 3 John Jude

Each Scripture passage below is taken from one of the Catholic Epistles. See if you can fill in the correct source of each.

1. _____

But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in the love of God and wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. On those who waver, have mercy. . . .

2. _____

. . . according to his [the Lord's] promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

3. _____

Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does what is good is of God; whoever does what is evil has never seen God.

4. _____

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

5. _____

For this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, as you heard from the beginning, in which you should walk.

6. _____

Even if you should suffer because of righteousness, blessed are you. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God.

7. _____

I write to you not because you do not know the truth but because you do, and because every lie is alien to the truth. Who is the liar? Whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Whoever denies the Father and the Son, this is the antichrist.