

IDENTITY + PURPOSE in Christ
Resurrection People #2
Steve Mitchell
May 26th, 2024

Nianfu

NTRO: IDENTITY + PURPOSE

簡介：身分 + 目的

STORY/ILLUS: Phia, playing/talking during a recent Maui trip

“Princess Lorena Couraga Phia with a happy warrior yell”

故事/插圖：菲亞在最近的毛伊島旅行中玩耍/說話

“洛雷娜·庫拉加·菲亞公主帶著快樂的戰士大喊”



Where does a sense of identity like that come from?

For Phia it's from her family, her imagination,...

這樣的認同感從何而來？

對菲亞來說，這來自她的家庭、她的想像.....

For us, it can be more complicated.

Identity is a huge issue today.

We have identity politics...

...support groups for distinct identities...

...and the fracturing of a civil society driven by “isms”

對我們來說，情況可能更加複雜。

如今，身份是一個大問題。

我們有身分政治...

...不同身分的支持團體...

...以及「主義」驅動下的公民社會的分裂

There are so many influences coming at us from everywhere all at once.
有這麼多的影響同時從四面八方湧向我們。

They want to shape our response to questions like:

“Who am I?”

“How do I understand myself?”

“Why am I even here?”

“Am I valued?”

“Do I belong?”

“What am I supposed to do with my life?”

他們想要塑造我們對以下問題的回應：

“我是誰？”

“我如何了解自己？”

“我為什麼會在這裡？”

“我有價值嗎？”

“我屬於哪里？”

“我的一生該做什麼？”

STORY/ILLUS: A few years ago, one of our Foursquare leaders was earning his doctorate.
故事/插圖：幾年前，我們的一位 Foursquare 領導者正在獲得博士學位。

He was studying leadership among senior pastors of large churches.
他正在研究大型教會主任牧師的領導力。

Part of his research asked pastors from a national pool to identify themselves in one word. He got a ton of responses like...
他的部分研究要求全國的牧師用一個字來表明自己的身分。他收到了大量的回復，例如...

Leader

Chief Executive

Visionary

Futurist

Change Agent

領導者

執行長

有遠見

未來主義者

變更代理人

However, only one pastor responded this way, “Shepherd.”
This pastor made a statement about his identity and purpose.

And for him, they came together in a single word: shepherd.

然而，只有一位牧師這樣回答，「牧羊人」。

這位牧師就他的身分和目的發表了聲明。

對他來說，他們聚集在一個字上：牧羊人。

That's true for most of us, isn't it?

Identity and purpose reinforce one another.

對我們大多數人來說都是如此，不是嗎？

身份和目的相輔相成。

I'm a pastor

Maybe, you're a teacher

Or, a student

An athlete

An artist

A doctor

我是牧師

也許，你是一名老師

或者，一個學生

一個運動員

一個藝術家

醫生

A mom, a dad, or grandparent

A son or a daughter

A single parent

媽媽、爸爸或祖父母

兒子還是女兒

單親父母

A survivor

A criminal

An addict

倖存者

一名罪犯

一個癮君子

These labels can be powerful identity-shapers.

這些標籤可以成為強大的身份塑造者。

And, more often than not, we get them from others.

而且，我們常常從別人那裡得到它們。

“You're the smart one.”

“You’re the good-looking one.”

“You have talent.”

“You’re not a good fit for this.”

“Why can’t you be more like your brother...or your sister...or whoever?”

“你是最聰明的那個。”

“你就是那個好看的。”

“你有天賦。”

“你不適合這個。”

“為什麼你不能更像你的兄弟.....或你的姐妹.....或任何人？”

Skye

We’re surrounded by “mirrors.” 我們周圍都是「鏡子」。

Those mirrors are other people, who reflect back to us who we are. 這些鏡子是其他人，他們反射出我們是誰。

And why we’re here. 以及我們為什麼在這裡。

Identity and purpose. 身份和目的。

But, these reflections can feel like an oversimplification to most of us.

They can reduce complex and beautiful human beings to a phrase...or a word.

但是，對我們大多數人來說，這些想法可能過於簡單化了。他們可以將複雜而美麗的人類簡化為一個短語.....或一個單字。

Fortunately, God doesn’t see us that way.

And, Ephesians makes us a counteroffer.

幸運的是，上帝並不這樣看我們。而且，以弗所書向我們提出了還價。

MOVEMENT 1: GOD’S BEEN BUSY 動作一：上帝一直很忙

Let’s turn to our text: Ephesians 1:3-14 讓我們來看經文：以弗所書 1:3-14

As we read this, you’ll see periods, commas, and even paragraph divisions

當我們閱讀本文時，您會看到句號、逗號，甚至段落分隔符

But, originally, it’s one long sentence. 但是，本來，這是一個很長的句子。

The passage tumbles out of Paul like a waterfall cascading over a cliff, drenching a plain work-a-day world in glittering highlights. 這段話從保羅身上傾瀉而下，就像瀑布從懸崖上傾瀉而下，將平淡的工作世界灑滿了閃閃發光的亮點。

He pours this praise over the ordinariness of life, even his life in prison, transforming it in the process...to the praise of God’s glory. 他對平凡的生活，甚至是他在監獄裡的生活傾注了這種讚美，並在此過程中改變了生活.....以讚美上帝的榮耀。

This passage is both the Hubble telescope of the New Testament and a microscope for the heart. 這段經文既是新約的哈伯望遠鏡，也是心臟的顯微鏡。

It shows us the huge panorama of God's cosmic plan.

And it finds its way into the tiniest aching cracks of our souls.

Seams chiseled there by the pain of our past.

As I read this unique passage, please let the language wash over and soak into you.

Let's not miss this opportunity to let the Holy Spirit minister God's Word to us.

它向我們展示了上帝宇宙計劃的巨大全景。

它會進入我們靈魂最微小的疼痛裂縫。

我們過去的痛苦在此處鑿出接縫。

當我讀這段獨特的段落時，請讓語言沖刷並滲透到你的內心。

讓我們不要錯過這個讓聖靈將神的話語傳給我們的機會。

Ephesians 1:3-14

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, **in order that we**, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, **might be for the praise of his glory**. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the **praise of his glory**.

以弗所書**1:3-14** 3願頌讚歸與我們主耶穌基督的父神！他在基督裡曾賜給我們天上各樣屬靈的福氣；4就如神從創立世界以前，在基督裡揀選了我們，使我們在他面前成為聖潔，無有瑕疵；5又因愛我們，就按著自己意旨所喜悅的，預定我們藉著耶穌基督得兒子的名分，6使他榮耀的恩典得著稱讚；這恩典是他在愛子裡所賜給我們的。7我們藉這愛子的血得蒙救贖，過犯得以赦免，乃是照他豐富的恩典。8這恩典是神用諸般智慧聰明，充充足足賞給我們的；9都是照他自己所預定的美意，叫我們知道他旨意的奧秘，10要照所安排的，在日期滿足的時候，使天上、地上、一切所有的都在基督裡面同歸於一。11我們也在他裡面得（或作：成）了基業；這原是哪位隨己意行、做萬事的，照著他旨意所預定的，12叫他的榮耀從我們這首先在基督裡有盼望的人可以得著稱讚。13你們既聽見真理的道，就是那叫你們得救的福音，也信了基督，既然信他，就受了所應許的聖靈為印記。14這聖靈是我們得基業的憑據（原文作：質），直等到神之民（原文作：產業）被贖，使他的榮耀得著稱讚。

Paul begins and ends this with “praise.” 保羅以「讚美」開始和結束。

The word “praise” is often translated as “blessing” or “blessed,” which means to speak well of, especially in an official way like a eulogy. The word literally means “eulogy.”

So, we could read the opening more like this...“讚美”一詞通常被翻譯為“祝福”或“有福”，意思是說好話，尤其是以悼詞等官方方式。這個字的字面意思是「悼詞」。

所以，我們可以這樣唸開頭...

*“Speak well of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus the Messiah, who has spoken well of us in the heavenly realms with every utterance of favor and goodwill in The Messiah.”*稱讚我們主耶穌彌賽亞的上帝和父神，他在天上用彌賽亞的每一個恩惠和善意的話語來稱讚我們。”

Have you ever considered that God speaks well of you? That your name is safe in His mouth? 你有沒有想過神對你說好話？你的名字在他口中是安全的嗎？

Listen to what He says about you if you belong to Jesus. 如果你屬於耶穌，請聽聽他對你的評價。

This is a deep wellspring of identity:這是身分的深層泉源：

- You are chosen: How many of you often feel left out?你是被揀選的：你們當中有多少人經常感到被冷落？
- You are holy, and included in all good things, present and future你是聖潔的，包含在現在和未來的所有美好事物中
- We're redeemed, forgiven, and blameless; the language of redemption is the language of the pawnshop. It cost God something dear to speak well of you.我們被救贖、被寬恕、無可指摘；救贖的語言就是當舖的語言。上帝為了說你的好話而付出了高昂的代價。
- YOU ARE LOVED - deeply, passionately + before all things “predestined”你被愛著——深深、熱情地+在一切「注定」之前
- You are pleasing to God你是神所喜悅的
- We're united as God's family in His Kingdom. You BELONG!我們作為上帝的家人在祂的國度裡團結在一起。你屬於祂的國度！
- You are *rich* in God's grace that has been “lavished” on you.你擁有豐富的上帝「慷慨地」賜給你的恩典。
- You possesses a guaranteed inheritance, and the guarantee is *God's own Spirit*你擁有有保證的繼承權，而保證就是神自己的靈
- YOU. Are. The praise of His glory 你是，他榮耀的稱贊

This is active. This is ALIVE. 這是活潑的。這是活著的。

This is stuff God has done and is doing for us.這是神已經為我們所做的事情，並且正在為我們做的事情。

It reshapes everything in our lives!它重塑了我們生活中的一切！

Do you think about yourself this way? 你是這樣看待自己的嗎？

Do you see your identity and purpose in this “mirror,” this text? 你在這面「鏡子」、這段文字中看到你的身分和目的嗎？

Do you see the enormous, beautiful space God’s created for you to live within? 你看到上帝為你創造的巨大而美麗的居住空間了嗎？

Do you see the Garden where you were meant to find hope, be healed, and set free to flourish? 你是否看到了那個讓你找到希望、得到療癒並自由地蓬勃發展的花園？

Yun

God does. He sees all of that for you. And it’s real. 神看到了。他為你看到了所有這些。這是真實的。

What He’s spoken over you is not flattery. 他對你所說的不是為了討好你。

It’s the truth. 這是事實。

The question isn’t: Does God feel this way? Has He made the impossible possible? 問題不是：神是這樣想的嗎？他曾使不可能成為可能嗎？

The question is: Will you believe it? 問題是：你會相信嗎？

Will you embrace it? 你會接受這個事實嗎？

Not in the abstract, but personally and passionately. 不是抽象的，而是個人的和熱情的。

MOVEMENT 2: MIRRORS + VESSELS

Ephesians 1:12

...in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 叫他的榮耀從我們這首先在基督裡有盼望的人，可以得著稱讚。

This is the crux of everything we’ve talked about so far. 這是到目前為止我們所討論的一切的關鍵。

Everything in the first 11 verses leads to: “in order that we...might be for the praise of His glory.” 前 11 節中的一切都引向：“使我們.....使他的榮耀得著稱讚。”

So that we might, “...be for *speaking well* of His glory.” 這樣我們就可以「...稱讚祂的榮耀」。

That’s our response to all God has done. 這就是我們對神所做的一切的回應。

That’s what He’s inviting us into through Jesus. 這就是祂透過耶穌邀請我們進入的。

Paul puts this in Romans: 保羅在羅馬書中這樣說：

Romans 12:1 羅馬書12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 所以弟兄們，我以神的慈悲勸你們，將身體獻上當作活祭，是聖潔的，是神所喜悅的。你們如此事奉，乃是理所當然的。

He's telling us this: "in order that we...might be for the praise of His glory," we should become *living expressions of worship*. 他告訴我們：“為了讓我們...可以讚美祂的榮耀”，我們應該成為敬拜的活生生的表達。

In Paul's mind, that's what a sacrifice was. It was worship. 在保羅看來，這就是犧牲。這是崇拜。

But stop and think about this. 但停下來想一想。

Paul's a good Jew. 保羅是個好猶太人。

He's been in the Temple during the festivals. 節日期間他都在聖殿裡。

He knows sacrifices don't survive. They don't go on living. They die. 他知道犧牲是無法延續的。他們不會繼續生活。他們死了。

But in Romans, Paul is saying, there's a new way to worship. 但保羅在羅馬書中說，有一種新的敬拜方式。

You can be a *living* sacrifice. Giving yourself wholly to God, as those animals did. 你可以成為活祭。像那些動物一樣，將自己完全奉獻給上帝。

But instead of it ending in death. It's full of LIFE! 但它並沒有以死亡告終。它充滿了生命！

Your life can be an ongoing, lively, winsome expression of worship... 你的生活可以是一種持續的、活潑的、迷人的敬拜表達...

...of utter devotion to God that speaks well of His glory.對上帝的完全奉獻，充分彰顯祂的榮耀。

And, that is the only reasonable response, given all that God has done in Christ. 鑑於神在基督裡所做的一切，這是唯一合理的回應。

Listen to what comes immediately before Romans 12:1 聽聽羅馬書 12:1 之前的內容

Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!

“Who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counselor?”

“Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay them?”

For from him and through him and for him are all things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen.

11:33 深哉，神豐富的智慧和知識。他的判斷，何其難測，他的蹤跡何其難尋！

11:34 誰知道主的心，誰作過他的謀士呢，

11:35 誰是先給了他，使他後來償還呢。

11:36 因為萬有都是本於他，倚靠他，歸於他，願榮耀歸給他，直到永遠。阿們。

Here the echoes? Ephesians, Job, Psalms, Isaiah. 這裡有迴聲嗎？以弗所書，約伯記、詩篇、以賽亞書。

This is a beautiful summary prayer, not unlike Ephesians 1. 這是一個美麗的總結性禱告，與以弗所書 1 章不同。

Paul writes in circles, constantly revisiting and expanding on his themes. 保羅繞圈寫作，不斷地重新檢視，擴展他的主題。

It's like driving a car around an exit ramp in a parking garage. 這就像在停車場的出口坡道上駕駛汽車一樣。

You keep seeing the same things but from a different perspective. 你總是從不同的角度看到同樣的事情。

Living our lives as redeemed worshippers, as living sacrifices is a worthy calling. 作為被救贖的敬拜者，作為活祭過我們的生活是一個有價值的呼召。

You, we are worthy to embrace a life like that because of Jesus Christ. 你，因為耶穌基督，我們值得擁抱這樣的生活。

We are worthy to worship (axios) the One who is worthy of worship 我們值得敬拜 (axios) 值得敬拜的那一位。

Challenge: 挑戰：

Gen Z (love the highschoolers, all in) Z 世代(熱愛高中生，全力以赴)

Millenials (only ones coming back to church despite the stressors) 千禧世代(只有那些儘管有壓力仍回到教會的人)

Boomers (Let's talk...) 嬰兒潮世代(我們來談談...)

MOVEMENT 3: SO, HOW DO WE DO THIS? 第三：那，我們怎麼做？

In the first 14 verse of Ephesians, Jesus is referenced no fewer than 15 times. 在《以弗所書》前 14 節中，耶穌被提及不少於 15 次。

11 of those mention are “in Christ” or “in Him.” 其中 11 個提到的是「在基督裡」或「在祂裡面」。

All of the blessings — our identity and purpose, the unity of all things remade in God's Kingdom, a life of living worship, the Holy Spirit's pledge of a full inheritance — all of this is *only* offered to us *in* Jesus. 所有的祝福——我們的身分和目的、在神的國度中重造萬物的統一、活潑敬拜的生活、聖靈對完全繼承的保證——所有這一切都只能在耶穌裡賜給我們。

So, what does it mean to be “in Jesus?” 那麼，什麼是“在耶穌裡”呢？

It's simple. 很簡單。

Ludan

You say to Him, “Save me, I'm yours.” 你和他說，“救贖我，我是屬於你的。”

STORY/ILLUS: Martin Luther and Johann von Staupitz (vicar of the Augustinian friars in Germany) 故事/插圖：馬丁路德和約翰馮施陶皮茨(德國奧古斯丁修道士的牧師)
Six hours confessing! 六個小時的認罪！

We do not come into a hopeful, healing, freeing, and flourishing relationship with Jesus by focusing on who we are *without* God. No, we simply turn to Him from despair, brokenness, bondage, and say, "Save me, I'm yours." 如果我們專注於沒有上帝的自我，我們就無法與耶穌建立一種充滿希望、治癒、自由和繁榮的關係。不，我們只需從絕望、破碎、束縛中轉向他，然後說：“救救我，我是你的了。”

Ministry of reconciliation 和解的事工團契

Communion 聖餐

Response song 回應歌曲

Benediction 祝禱

May you be a people who know that God speaks well of you. May you secure all the blessings of God the Father through faith in His Son, Jesus the Messiah. And, May you be filled with the Holy Spirit, the one who seals you and keeps you firmly in God's love until the day you see Jesus in all His fullness. Amen. 願你成為知道神稱讚你的人。願您透過對祂的兒子彌賽亞耶穌的信仰，獲得天父上帝的所有祝福。並且，願你被聖靈充滿，聖靈會印記你，讓你牢牢地留在神的愛裡，直到你看見耶穌的豐盛。阿門。

Don't leave here without getting prayed for!!! 不要在沒有得到祈禱的情況下離開這裡！