

# Crave: Identity



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Boyz II Men



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**→ Identity (n):**  
***the distinguishing character or***  
***personality of an individual.***

**It constitutes: your name, your personality, your likes, dislikes,**  
**your physical characteristics, your nicknames, your**  
**temperament, your job, your relationships, etc.**

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## Genesis 32:22-30

22 That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. 24 So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. 25 When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. 26 Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

27 The man asked him, "What is your name?"

"Jacob," he answered.

28 Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with human beings and have overcome."

29 Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."

But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.

30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

Robert DeNiro

Ben Stiller

# Meet the Parents



DVD  
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# What are the false identities I have?

1. Where are the areas of your life that you feel jealous of someone else?
2. After a moment of failure, what are the names and identities you hear in your head?

*Take a moment to write down some of your false identities on one side of your piece of cardboard.*

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# How do we claim our new name?

1. We have to reject our false identities.
2. We have to recognize our identity as God's Beloved.

“From the moment we claim the truth of being the Beloved, we are faced with the call to become who we are. Becoming the Beloved is the great spiritual journey we have to make”

“Becoming the Beloved means letting the truth of our Belovedness become enfleshed in everything we think, say, or do”

-Henri Nouwen, *Life of the Beloved*

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# How do we claim our new name?

1. We have to reject our false identities.
2. We have to recognize our identity as God's Beloved.
3. We have to do an honest inventory of who we are through God's eyes.

What is a new name that God is giving you tonight?  
What are some new identities that God is speaking  
over you tonight?

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