

Identity

- Jeremiah 1:5 The Voice
- **Eternal One:** Before I even formed you in *your mother's* womb, I knew all about you. Before you drew your first breath, I had already chosen you to be *My* prophet to *speak My* word to the nations.
- Psalm 139:16 Amplified Bible (AMP)
Your eyes have seen my unformed substance;
And in Your book were all written
The days that were appointed *for me*,
When as yet there was not one of them [even taking shape].

Identity

Ephesians 1 3-5

Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.

Identity

- Psalm 40:7 New King James Version
- Then I said, “Behold, I come;
In the scroll of the book *it is written of me.*”
- Psalm 40:7-8 The Message
- So I answered, “I’m coming. I read in your letter what you wrote about me, And I’m coming to the party you’re throwing for me.” That’s when God’s Word entered my life, became part of my very being.

Identity

- We were created in eternity. God knew us before we were formed in our mothers womb, before we were born into this realm as a physical being. We existed before we had a physical body. We were first created as a spirit out of the heart of God. We are made in Gods image and God is spirit.
- God wrote a book about us and what our destiny should be which is contained in our spirit.

Identity

- The natural way of thinking is that we have a physical body with a soul. However you are a spirit that has a soul (mind, will and emotions) that lives in a body. The real you is the spiritual person.
- When we become Christians this is where our thinking needs to change. Up to this point everything about us is fed from the world and we live from the outside in. We are totally led by our soul needs.

Identity

- At salvation our spirit becomes reconnected to God and we have a relationship with Him that transforms us from the inside out, We are connected to heaven and all its resources and this now forms the basis of our new life. We need to learn to grow our spirit so we are spirit led and become more like Jesus and learn to live a supernatural lifestyle. This means basically unlearning everything and starting again God's way!

Identity

- Genesis 1:28 The Message (MSG)
- 26-28 God spoke: “Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature
So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea,
the birds in the air, the cattle,
And, yes, Earth itself,
and every animal that moves on the face of Earth.”
God created human beings;
he created them godlike,
Reflecting God’s nature.
He created them male and female.
God blessed them:
“Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge!
Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air,
for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth.”

Identity

- **Genesis 1:26** Then God said, “Let Us (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) make man in Our image, according to Our likeness [not physical, but a spiritual personality and moral likeness]; and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, and over the entire earth, and over everything that creeps *and* crawls on the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in His own image, in the image *and* likeness of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them [granting them certain authority] and said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth, and subjugate it [putting it under your power]; and rule over (dominate) the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

Identity

- What was God's intent for man?
- Look at Adam.
- Significant – he had a purpose to rule and subdue the earth.
- Safe and secure – God provided for all his needs.
- Belonging – he had an intimate relationship with God.

Identity

- ²⁹ So God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of the entire earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; ³⁰ and to all the animals on the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that moves on the ground—to everything in which there is the breath of life—I *have given* every green plant for food”; and it was so [because He commanded it]. ³¹ God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good *and* He validated it completely.

Identity

- **Gen 3⁶** The woman *approached the tree*, eyed its fruit, and coveted its *mouth-watering, wisdom-granting* beauty. She plucked a fruit from the tree and ate. She then offered *the fruit* to her husband who was close by, and he ate as well. ⁷ Suddenly their eyes were opened *to a reality previously unknown*. For the first time, they sensed *their vulnerability and rushed to hide* their naked bodies, stitching fig leaves into crude loincloths.⁸ Then they heard the sound of the Eternal God walking in the cool *misting* shadows of the garden. The man and his wife took cover among the trees and hid from the Eternal God.
- **God (calling to Adam):** ⁹ Where are you?
- **Adam:** ¹⁰ When I heard the sound of You coming in the garden, I was afraid because I am naked. So I hid *from You*.
- **God:** ¹¹ Who told you that you are naked? Have you eaten from the tree *in the centre of the garden*, the very one I commanded you not to eat from?
- **Adam (pointing at the woman):** ¹² *It was she!* The woman You gave me as a companion put the fruit in my hands, and I ate it.

Identity

- **God:** ²² Look, the human has become like one of Us, possessing the knowledge of good and evil. *If We don't do something*, he will reach out his hand and take *some of the fruit* from the tree of life, eat it, and live forever.
- ²³ So the Eternal God banished Adam *and Eve* from the garden of Eden *and exiled humanity from paradise*, sentencing humans to laborious lives working the very ground man came from. ²⁴ After driving them out, He stationed winged guardians at the east end of the garden of Eden and set up a sword of flames which *alertly* turned back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Identity

- What effect did this have?
- Spiritual death.
- Lost knowledge of God.
- Dominant Negative emotions:
 - Rejected – therefore a need to belong.
 - Fear – no security.
 - Guilt and shame – a need for self worth.
 - No purpose, weak and helpless – need to control.

Identity

- What were strengths became weaknesses:
- Acceptance and belonging – rejection.
- Innocence – guilt and shame.
- Authority – helplessness, weakness, need to control.
- Significance and purpose – lack of identity.

Identity

Dead in trespasses and
sins

Rejected

Lost and
alone

SPIRITUALLY
DEAD

Insecure

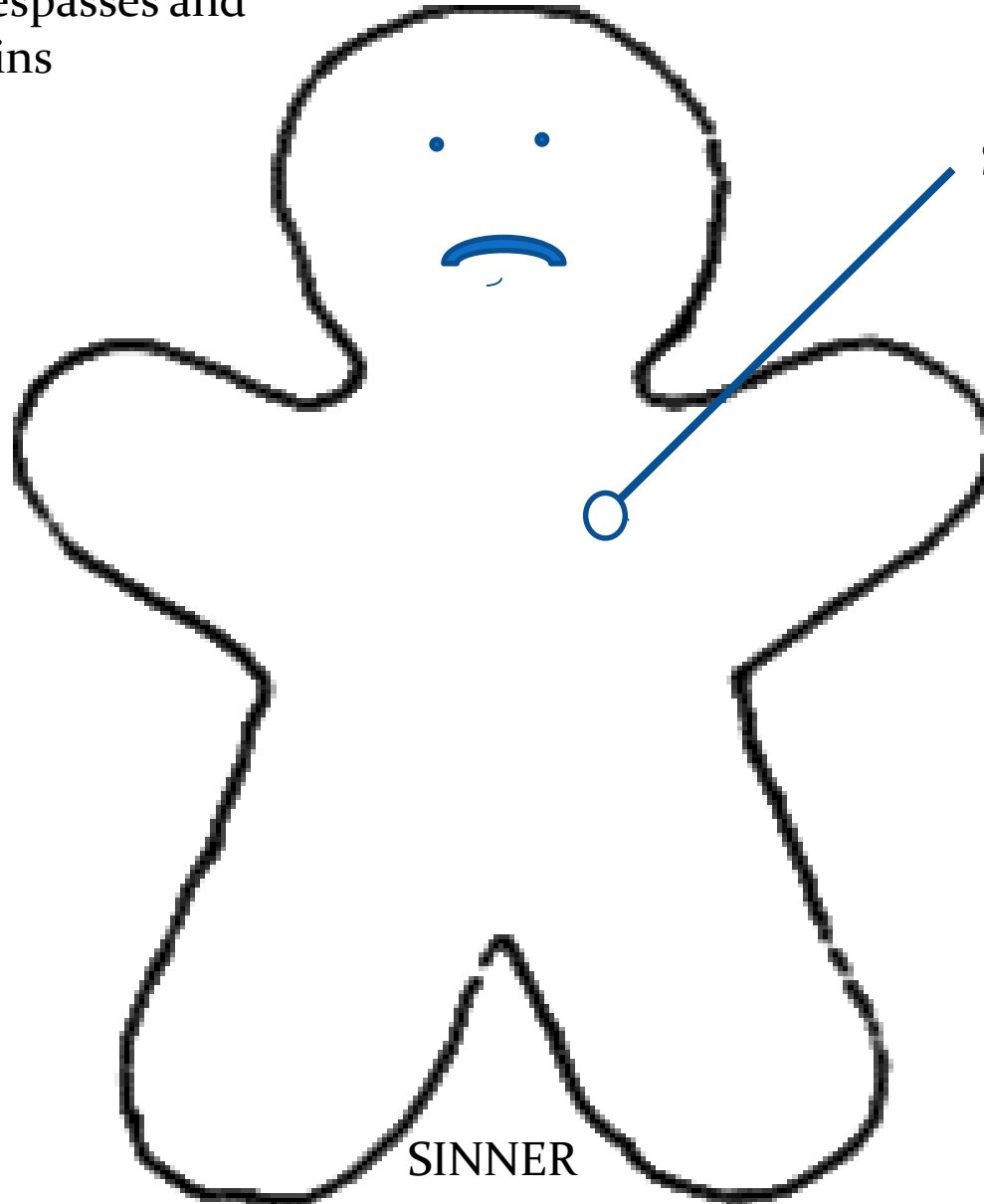
Fearful

Insecure

Condemnation

Separated
from God

SINNER



Identity

- This has shaped our world ever since.
- Our world system tells us what is acceptable – all external values.
- Strive to be accepted based on looks, money, jobs, material goods, position, who you know, what you can do, status, what you are good at.
- Does it work?
- NO!
- Why?
- Its not supposed to.

Identity

- God's intention was always that we find our identity and purpose in him.
- This got ruined but that's why Jesus came.
- He is called the 'second Adam' because he put right all the failures and paid the price that sin caused by dying for us so that we can be forgiven and reconciled to God.
- 1Corinthians 15:22 The Message (MSG)
- There is a nice symmetry in this: Death initially came by a man, and resurrection from death came by a man. Everybody dies in Adam; everybody comes alive in Christ.

Identity

- New life requires new birth
- John 3:3 Amplified Bible (AMP)
- ³ Jesus answered him, “I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, unless a person is born again [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified], he cannot [ever] see *and* experience the kingdom of God.”

Identity

- New life Brings a new identity
- 2 Corinthians 5 17. Therefore if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Saviour], *he is* a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life].

Identity

Colossians 1:13 Amplified Bible (AMP)

- ¹³ For He has rescued us *and* has drawn us to Himself from the dominion of darkness, and has transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
- That means we have literally changed kingdoms!

Identity

- ¹⁰ Ephesians 2:10 Amplified Bible (AMP)
- For we are His workmanship [His own master work, a work of art], created in Christ Jesus [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, ready to be used] for good works, which God prepared [for us] beforehand [taking paths which He set], so that we would walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us].

Identity

- 1 Peter 2 9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light;¹⁰ for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

Identity

- The person you became at salvation did not exist before!
- The person you were before is now **EXTINCT!**
- If you believe this it will change your life.
- You live how you believe.
- No person can consistently live in a way which is inconsistent with what he believes about himself.

Identity

- New life brings a new title
- 1 Corinthians 1:2 (AMP) - to those sanctified (set apart, made holy) in Christ Jesus, who are selected *and* called as saints (God's people).
- Before – SINNER separated from God and spiritually dead.
- Now – SAINT – a Holy person connected to God, alive, forgiven.

Identity

- You are a new species!!
- Becoming a Christian is not a matter of getting something, but of 'being' someone.
- Were a sinner, now a SAINT.
- How you see yourself is vital.
- What do sinners do?
- What do saints do? Float on a cloud?
- Saint is a person who has been transformed by Jesus and all that means

Identity

- Basically at salvation we have -
- A new birth – spiritually alive.
- A new identity – new species.
- A new title – Saint, a holy person.
- A new family – child of God.
- A new life – free from sin
- A new start – slate is wiped clean.
- A new kingdom to live in.
- A chance to fulfil our destiny – know God intimately and rule our spheres of influence.

Identity

Child of God

Significant

Forgiven

SPIRITUALLY
ALIVE

Secure

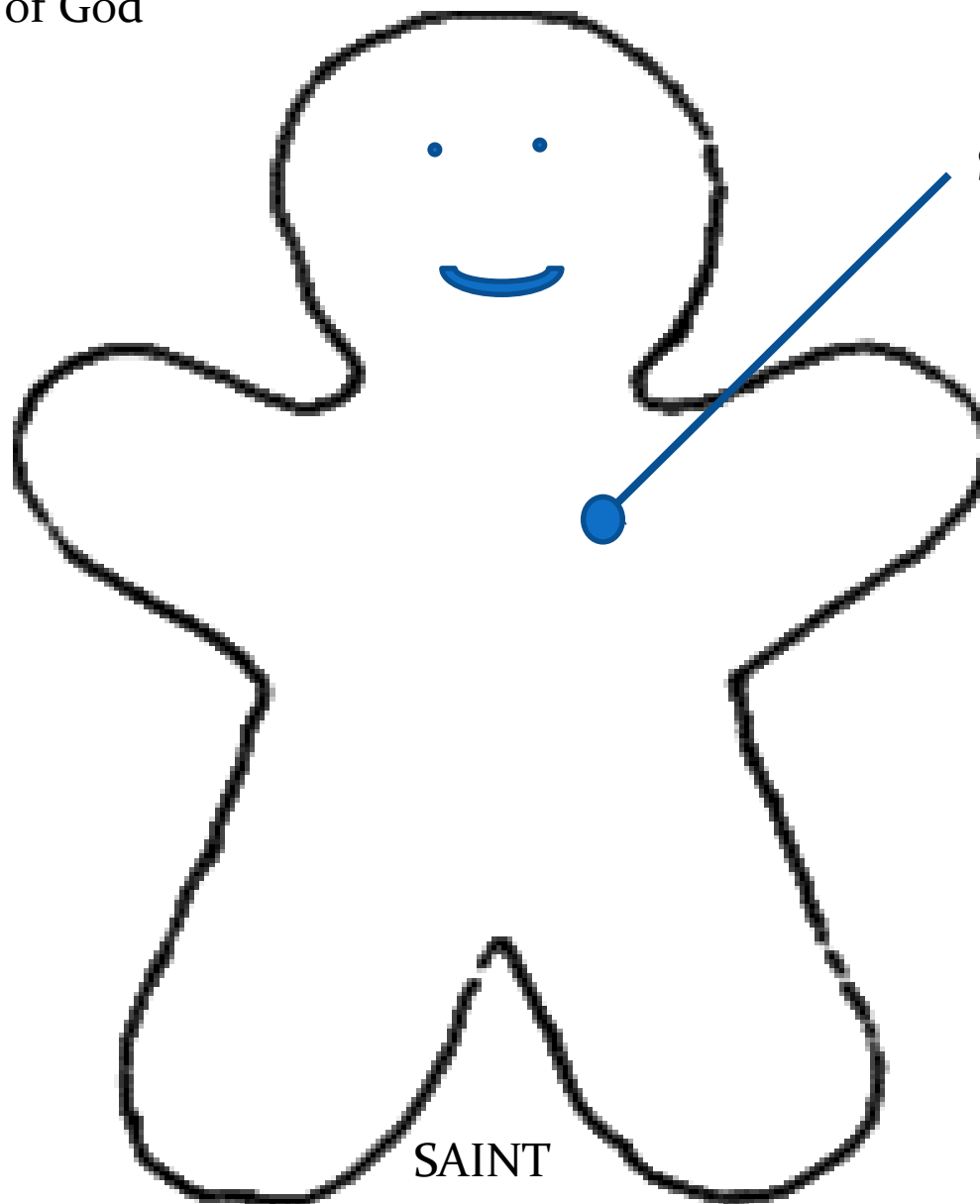
Accepted

Valued

No
condemnation

Loved

SAINT



Identity

- Okay if that's the case why are there so many Christians with low self esteem, who have a problem living victoriously, who struggle with sin, relating to God as Father, taking spiritual responsibility, who aren't mature, don't have God's character and don't display the fruits of the spirit. Basically who are totally defeated in their spiritual lives?
- Could be they are not pursuing God and living sinful lives.
- Could be they are still living according to the worlds value system.

Identity

- We have looked previously at how our upbringing shapes us. We have a soil bed inside us which is usually ripe for negative seeds to take root and this forms the basis for our opinions and belief system of ourselves and the world around us.
- Outside of God we have no option but to look to the world and others to meet our needs and end up with low self esteem.

Seed

Fruit

**Soil of
Insecurity**

Roots

Resulting from lack of:
Acceptance,
Affirmation,
Appreciation
Encouragement and
Love

Identity

Dead in trespasses and
sins

Rejected

Lost and
alone

SPIRITUALLY
DEAD

Insecure

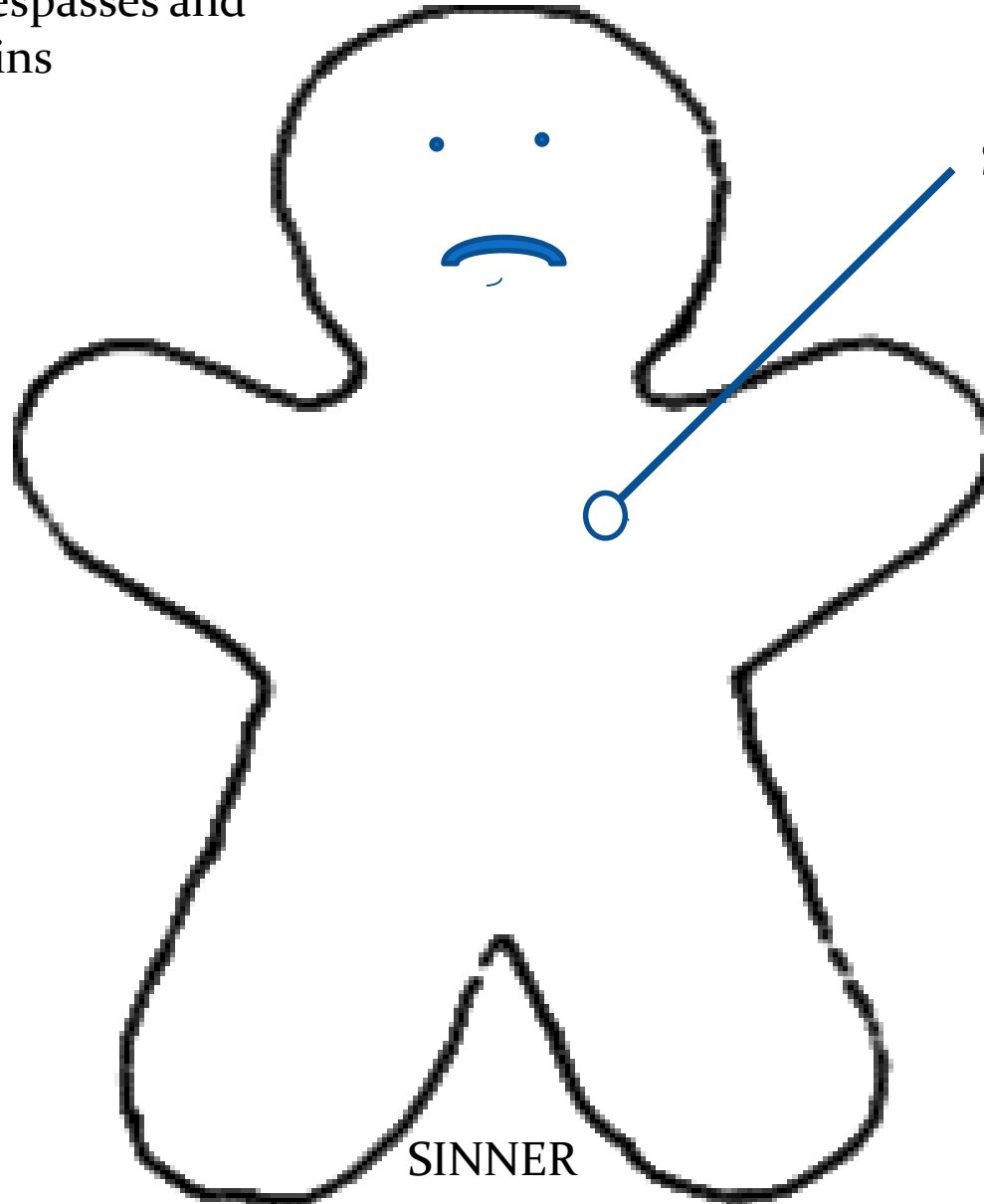
Fearful

Insecure

Condemnation

Separated
from God

SINNER



Identity

- What does this mean for us?
- Look at the seedbed [heart]. It should be secure – original intention. Throw in separation from God and our life experience we can see we have some work to do.
- Good news – Jesus did it all. We need to take hold of that and work it out in our lives so we come back to what God originally intended – Gen 1 28. We are no longer separated from God and SINNERS.
- We have been reconciled and restored. – new species.
- We need to change kingdoms in our thinking and experience to take on our new identity.

Identity

- Psalm 139 13-16
- Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out;
you formed me in my mother's womb.
I thank you, High God—you're breathtaking!
Body and soul, I am marvellously made!
I worship in adoration—what a creation!
You know me inside and out,
you know every bone in my body;
You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit,
how I was sculpted from nothing into something.
Like an open book, you watched me grow from
conception to birth;
all the stages of my life were spread out before you,
The days of my life all prepared
before I'd even lived one day.

Identity

- Romans 8 ¹⁵ For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.
- John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name,

Identity

Child of God

Significant

Forgiven

SPIRITUALLY
ALIVE

Secure

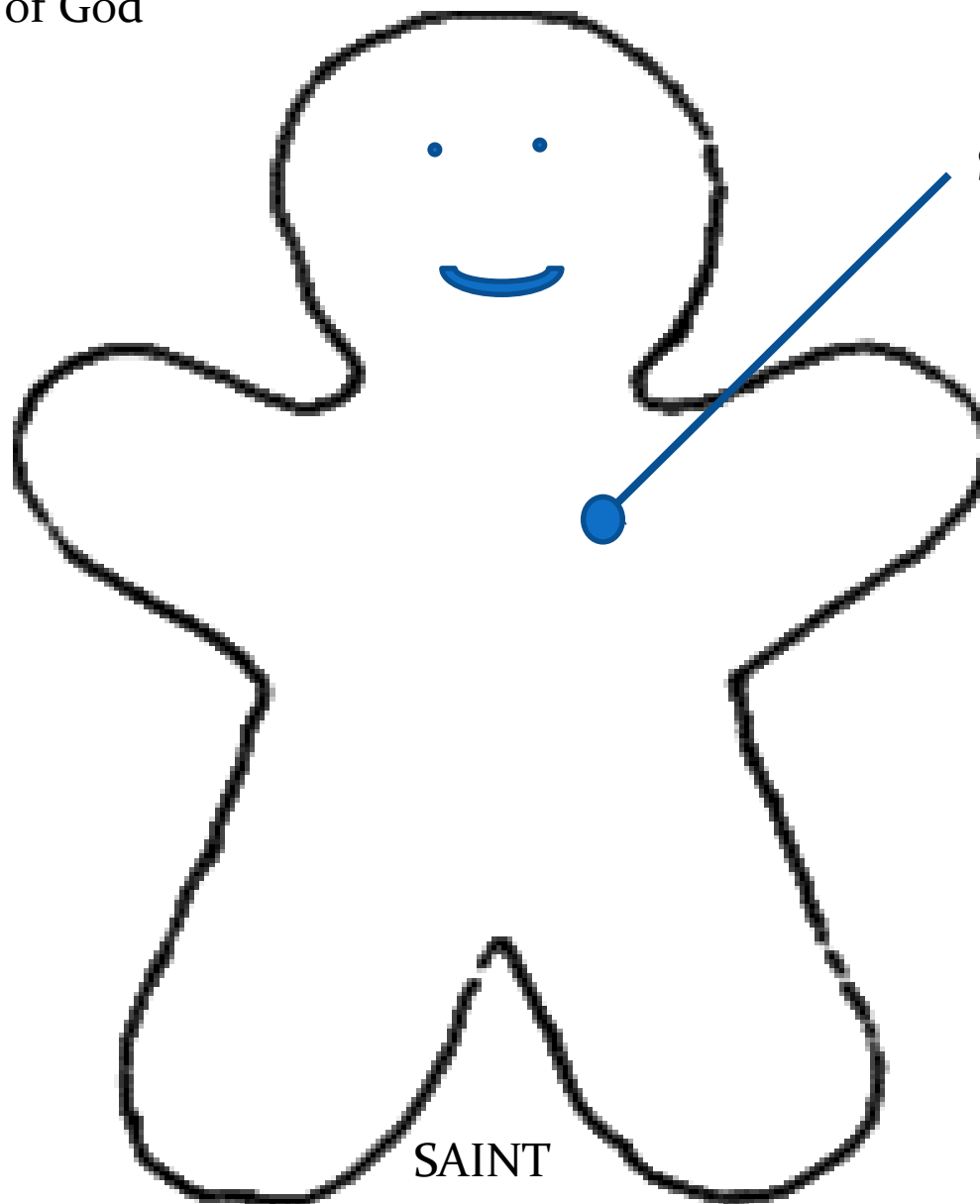
Accepted

Valued

No
condemnation

Loved

SAINT



Identity

Ephesians 1 ¹⁷ God of our Lord Jesus the Anointed, Father of Glory: *I call out to You on behalf of Your people.* Give them minds ready to receive wisdom and revelation so they will truly know You. ¹⁸ Open the eyes of their hearts, *and let the light of Your truth flood in.* Shine Your light on the hope You are calling them to embrace. Reveal to them the glorious riches You are preparing as their inheritance. ¹⁹ Let them see the full extent of Your power that is at work in those of us who believe, and may it be done according to Your might and power.

Identity

- Romans 8 ¹⁹ For all of creation is waiting, yearning for the time when the children of God will be revealed. ²⁰ You see, all of creation has collapsed into emptiness, not by its own choosing, but by God's. Still He placed within it a *deep and abiding* hope ²¹ that creation would one day be liberated from its slavery to corruption and experience the glorious freedom of the children of God. ²² For we know that all creation groans *in unison* with birthing pains up until now. ²³ *And there is more*; it's not just creation—all of us are groaning together too.

Identity

The crown of God's creation is a new creature, a creature that can sound the heartbeat of its Creator. That creature, made male and female, reflects God's own relational richness. The human family is to join God in the ongoing work of creation. The earth below and the sky above with all their inhabitants are too beautiful and too good to be left alone. They need the tender care and close attention that only God's favoured creature can give.