



ARTICLE

HAVEN MINISTRY

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

PRAYER FOR YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

FBCToday

UNLEASHING THE GOSPEL



HAVEN MINISTRY

*...."created in the image of God"
"fearfully and wonderfully made"
"for we are God's handiwork, created in Christ
Jesus to do good works"*

How do you feel when you read these rather familiar verses in Scripture? Are they truths that shape your identity? How do they tell of the nature of God? Christians can all easily

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

27 July 2025

Bearing Each Other Burdens

Galatians 5:25-6:1-5

Preacher **Arnold Lim**

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agree that God is Creator, that He made us and has a purpose for our lives. But what are the implications of this? How do these truths affect how I see myself and others?

This past April, as I trudged up dark steep steps, heavy incense filling my nostrils, feeling the weight of religious oppression, I was led to rooms full of women disregarded by most of society. Filled with despair, they are not shown that they are created in the image of God, fearfully and wonderfully, that God sees them as His handiwork. Just like all of us, a flame of desire for a safe, loving relationship is there deep in their core but has been so terribly snuffed out by the sins of man. I saw their plastered smiles, lonely eyes with no hope, tired bodies drooping down to rest for just a while. Many have grown numb to the routine of serving countless customers a day. Desensitised to their surroundings because it is all they know. They do not know the light outside, both literally and spiritually.

I first heard of the horrendous reality of human trafficking and the sex slave industry when I was just fourteen. I remember reading an article about human trafficking victims in Southeast Asia and an organization that was rescuing these women out and bringing them into a safe home for rehabilitation. It both broke my heart but also made me curious to know what churches and Christian organizations were doing to prevent and end this crime. I joined a few movements such as awareness walks, fundraisers and even a soap packing party to distribute to victims as was one organization's mission. I thought about pursuing a degree in psychology and becoming a counsellor to help survivors. Long story short, and a few more passion projects later, I pursued education instead and did not think too much about becoming involved to end the spread. Fast forward many years, and I'm sitting in church listening to a testimony about the Haven Ministry and an upcoming Christmas outreach they were conducting. I felt the same spark of interest coming back to me that I had when I was in Secondary school. Knowing the reality of the red light district so near to where I lived made the stories I read long ago so real.



I sought to learn about what Haven Ministry does (you can read about that in this article [here](#)), and just wanted to observe. I wasn't set on getting too involved, but that began to change the more I learned and the more I heard stories. You can read and you can listen and you can learn, but entering the environment, interacting with precious image bearers of Christ, just wanting to be truly loved and valued as worthy, resulted in God prompting me to respond in a way I wasn't expecting.

I didn't walk out of the brothels I visited feeling like I should try to end human trafficking, prostitution and the porn industry. I walked away with images in my mind that I could not erase. I felt the heaviness and brokenness of these places. That something so good God designed can be used for evil. That image bearers of Christ are being exploited and disdained. No matter socio-economic status, education, or home life, we are all empty and longing to be filled. Yet, they do not know who is the Giver of the water of life which never runs dry. How could they even begin to understand that God made their bodies for good when they have suffered so much abuse?

While I do not believe I have the ability to answer that burning question in my soul, I am convinced of the responsibility I have, firstly to discover the implications of being made in the image of God and teaching these truths to the youths I teach everyday and to the youths that are in our church. Because Jesus said: "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32).

I feel an urgent passion to educate and demonstrate to the youth of this generation the inherent worth and value we all have as image bearers. Women are not objects to be mocked and manipulated but are to be respected, cherished, and safeguarded. I want to empower young ladies to understand that their bodies are good and that they should never be treated as objects for manipulation or to earn someone's favor. To show them the implication of being an image bearer of God. To reorder our lives back to God's original design. Those who are in Christ are a new creation. Every longing we have to be fully known, wholly loved, and deeply valued is met in Christ as we are His children. This is our identity: children of God. As His children, we have received His Holy Spirit that reminds us of truth when society and the enemy scream lies to us.



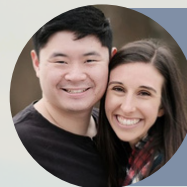


While many of the ladies I encountered that day are physically trapped in a dark and dangerous industry, we have all been trapped as slaves to sin. But Jesus says in John 8:35-36:

"NOW A SLAVE HAS NO PERMANENT PLACE IN THE FAMILY, BUT A SON BELONGS TO IT FOREVER. SO IF THE SON SETS YOU FREE, YOU WILL BE FREE INDEED."

Knowing our identity as sons of God, a part of His family and free to walk in new life matters. It affects how we interact with one another. Youths long for deep relationships but don't always know how to build them in a healthy way. They long for mentorship, for someone older to show them the way they should go. We are called to make disciples of all nations. A proper understanding of identity happens through discipleship: life on life, in the highs and the lows, the calling to live a life of holiness. May we be a church that takes this call to making disciples and living lives of holiness seriously. May we echo the words of Paul to the younger generation:

"Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ".



By Sarah Ong

Sarah co-leads The Prayerful People (PP) life group with her husband Caleb





PRAYER FOR YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

1. See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. – 1 John 3:1

Father God, thank You for loving me so perfectly. Help me remember that I am Your child, and there is nothing I can do to make You stop loving me. When I get caught up in what others say or think about me, help me remember the immense value You have already given me.

2. But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation. – Colossians 1:22

God, I am in awe that I can come into Your presence without a single fault, not because I am faultless, but because of Your Son washing away my sin with His death on the cross. Lord, protect me from getting caught up in shame or trying to earn the forgiveness that You freely give. I choose to openly walk in Your loving presence today.

3. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ – Philippians 3:20

Lord, I know this world is not my home. The brokenness I see all around me is evidence of this. So give me the strength I need, one day at a time. Remind me that no matter how rejected I feel in this world or overwhelmed by everything I see around me, I have an eternal home in heaven.

4. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!– 2 Corinthians 5:17

Thank You, Jesus, that I am a new creation in Christ! Lord, You have given me an entirely new nature. Help me choose to walk in Your ways. I am no longer defined by what I've done but by what Jesus has done for me. I have been washed clean! Help me to joyfully walk in that freedom today!

5. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.– John 15:15

What a friend I have in You, Jesus! Cast out the enemy's lies when I feel like I am burdening You with my needs. Lord, remind me that You delight in me as I confide and depend upon You as a friend. I know I am never truly alone. May I grow ever more aware of Your friendship and presence in my life through Your Holy Spirit.

I am so thankful that my identity is not based upon what I can do in my own strength. Instead, I know that my confidence is in Christ's work already done in me. In Jesus' name, Amen

Modified from <https://www.klove.com/resources/spiritual-growth/9-prayers-for-your-identity-in-christ-5858>