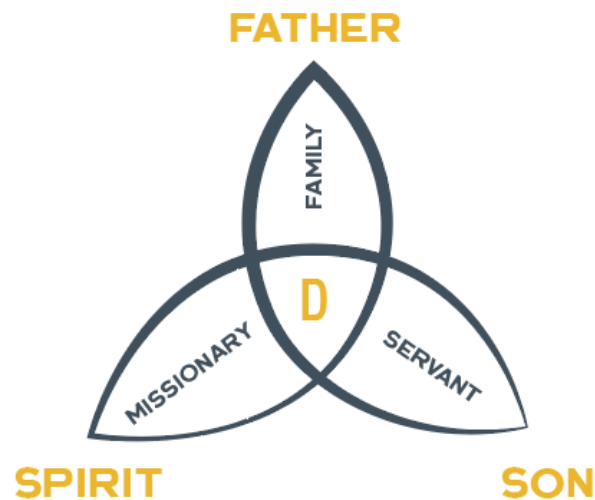


## GOSPEL IDENTITIES IN JESUS' CHURCH

As followers of Jesus, we are new creations who have been given a new identity (2 Cor 5:17). We are now disciples of our Savior Jesus Christ. We learn from him to live like him, becoming obedient from the heart to his truth in every part of life (Matt 28:16-20). As disciples we are now included in the family of God, we are servants of our King Jesus, and we proclaim his gospel as missionaries to the world. These are our gospel identities as disciples of Jesus.



### Family

In the gospel our triune God has called, qualified, and empowered us to live as the family of God.

- God the Father has adopted us as his sons and daughters, lavishing on us his limitless love and an eternal inheritance as a gracious and perfect Father.
- Jesus, God the Son, has become our faithful older brother, showing us what joyful obedience to our Father looks like. We are being trained up and transformed to become more like him.
- God the Holy Spirit has filled our hearts, freeing us from the fear and slavery of fatherlessness and crying out and rejoicing within us “Abba, Father!”

As sons and daughters of God we love each other like brothers and sisters. We band together to encourage, build up, and celebrate with each other. We disciple, nurture, and hold each other accountable to our new gospel life together. The primary means by which we show the world what God is like and give tangible proof of the gospel’s power to save is through our love for one another. As Jesus said, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35).

*(Isaiah 43:6-7; Ezekiel 36:26-28; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:14-17; 29; Galatians 4:3-7; Ephesians 1:1-12; 4:15-16; 5:1-2; 1 John 3:1; 4:7-21)*

## **Servant**

In the gospel our triune God has called, qualified, and empowered us to live as servants.

- God the Father in his own self-sufficiency serves his creation by giving to all people life, breath, and all things.
- Jesus, God the Son, did not come to be served, but to serve by giving his life as a ransom (Mark 10:45). He took on the posture of a servant, serving us even to the point of death, securing for us redemption, and providing for us an example of humble service.
- God the Holy Spirit serves us as our Helper (John 14:16), indwelling, guiding, instructing, equipping, reviving, and empowering believers for Christ-like living and service.

As servants we joyfully and sacrificially serve Jesus as we serve others. This means submitting to Jesus as Lord, to the leaders he has placed over us, and to each other as we humbly serve whomever God brings into our lives. Living as servants of the Servant presents a tangible witness to Jesus' kingdom and the transforming power of the gospel. Like him, our sacrificial service ought to demand a gospel explanation.

*(1 Chronicles 29:12-14; Job 1:21; Psalm 103:1-14; Isaiah 63:14; Matthew 5:45; 25:31-46; John 13:1-17; 14:26; Acts 17:24-25; Romans 8:26-27; 1 Corinthians 12:4-13; 2 Corinthians 4:5; Ephesians 2:10; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:8; 3:23-24; 1 Peter 2:16; 4:10)*

## **Missionary**

In the gospel our triune God has called, qualified, and empowered us to live as missionaries.

- God the Father is a sending God, sending judges, kings, and prophets throughout history for the sake of his people, ultimately sending his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved (John 3:17).
- Jesus, God the Son, is the perfect missionary, coming not to do his will or speak his own words or do his own work, but instead that of the Father who sent him. Jesus, in turn, send us out: "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you" (John 20:21).
- God the Holy Spirit fills his people for the mission on which Jesus has sent them, empowering them to be witnesses to the crucified and risen Christ.

As missionaries we are sent to share the truth about God's love for the world through the sending of His Son. And because we are pardoned rebels ourselves, our posture is always one of humility, joy, and sacrifice. The Spirit has been given to us so that we can know the truth about Jesus, live fruitful lives as evidence of the gospel's power, be empowered to share the gospel boldly, and trust that he is the one who convicts the heart and gives new life.

*(Isaiah 6:8; Jeremiah 1:7; Malachi 3:1; Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 4:17-19; John 1:14; 20:21-22; Acts 1:8; 4:23-31; Colossians 1:19; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; 1 Peter 2:9-12)*