

# Conflicting Identities

The background of the slide is a dramatic illustration of a canyon. Two dark, jagged rock formations frame a central opening. A rope bridge with wooden planks spans the gap. Silhouettes of four people are walking across the bridge. The sky is a bright orange, with rays of light emanating from behind the bridge, creating a strong backlight effect. The overall mood is one of challenge and triumph.

**BRIDGING  
— THE —  
GAP**

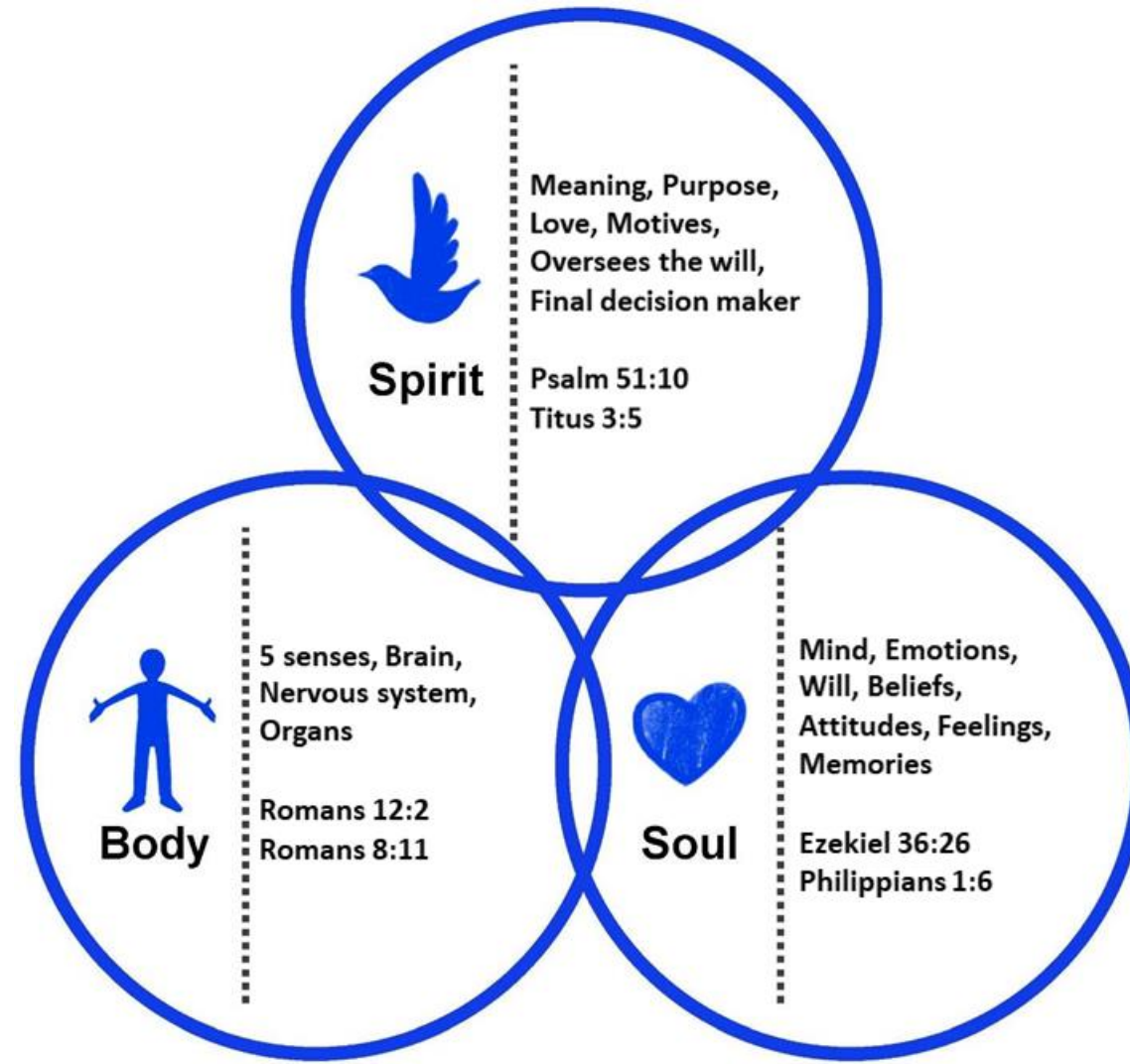
# Introduction

In this second session, we are going to explore two key ideas:

- 1. The impact of the Fall on my identity.*
- 2. The importance of gaining a true identity as a believer.*

To discuss these ideas, we need to think Biblically about reality.





# The Fall

1. Adam and Eve believed the lie of the Serpent -- that God was holding back something better than what they had been given. (Gen.3:1-19)
2. They surrendered their position as co-regents of creation to become slaves of Satan, the archenemy of God, and his world system – the kingdom of darkness.
3. Since the Fall, every person born into this world is a member of the kingdom of darkness – a huge gap from our original identity.



# Realities of Members of Satan's Kingdom

1. They worship the created rather than the Creator becoming idolatrous in their hearts. (Romans 1:24-25)
2. Their identity – children of the Devil who is their father; they will to do his desires (John 8:44)
3. Their flesh/fallen nature is committed to all kinds of sinful behaviour. The lists of their rebellion and sin are profound, all flowing from the three lusts of the world system. (I John 2:15-17; Romans 1:26-32; Galatians 5:19-21; Philippians 3:2-8)



# Transformed Identity by Christ's Sacrifice

1. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be the perfect sacrificial Lamb of God -- the final payment for sin.
2. When a person repents toward God and trusts Jesus, he/she becomes a new person (2 Cor.5:17), receives eternal spiritual life, and is transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of the Son of the Father. (Col.1:13)
3. We receive a NEW IDENTITY – a beloved child of the Father. We are adopted into God's family and cry out, "Abba Father." (Rom.8:15)



# Our New Identity

4. God gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit who speaks to us through our spirit and guides us in our decisions (Rom.8: 16-17, 26-28). He produces in us new spiritual life that is manifested as "fruit" – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Gal.5:22-23)

5. Our new spiritual life produces new desires and motivations, such as loving, obeying, worshiping, and serving God and other believers. (Eph.5:18-21)





# Emotional Intelligence (EQ)

In 1995, Daniel Goleman's book, *Emotional Intelligence: Why It Can Matter More Than IQ*, became an international best seller.

Five key elements of EQ:

1. Self-awareness – the ability to recognize and understand your moods, emotions, and drives, as well as their effect on others.
2. Self-regulation – the ability to control or redirect disruptive impulses and moods along with the ability to





# EQ (cont'd)

3. Motivation – A passion to work for reasons that go beyond money or status
4. Empathy – The ability to understand the emotional makeup of other people.
5. Social skill – A proficiency in managing relationships and building networks.



# Spiritual Emotional Intelligence

1. Unlike IQ, emotional intelligence can be improved with effort.

2. God's children have a huge advantage in elevating their EQ:

- We know we are loved by our Heavenly Father.
- We have the Holy Spirit to help us self-regulate.
- We are motivated to "*do our work heartily as to the Lord*"
- We are directed to be engaged in loving people and connecting them to God and to each other.



# Markers of Our New Identity

1. *What are the indicators that I am living out my new identity as a son of the Father and follower of Jesus?*

- We love God with all our heart, our soul, our mind, and our strength. (Matt.22:37-38)
- We love one another as Jesus loved us. (John 13:34-35)

2. *What visual image do you have of that identity?*



