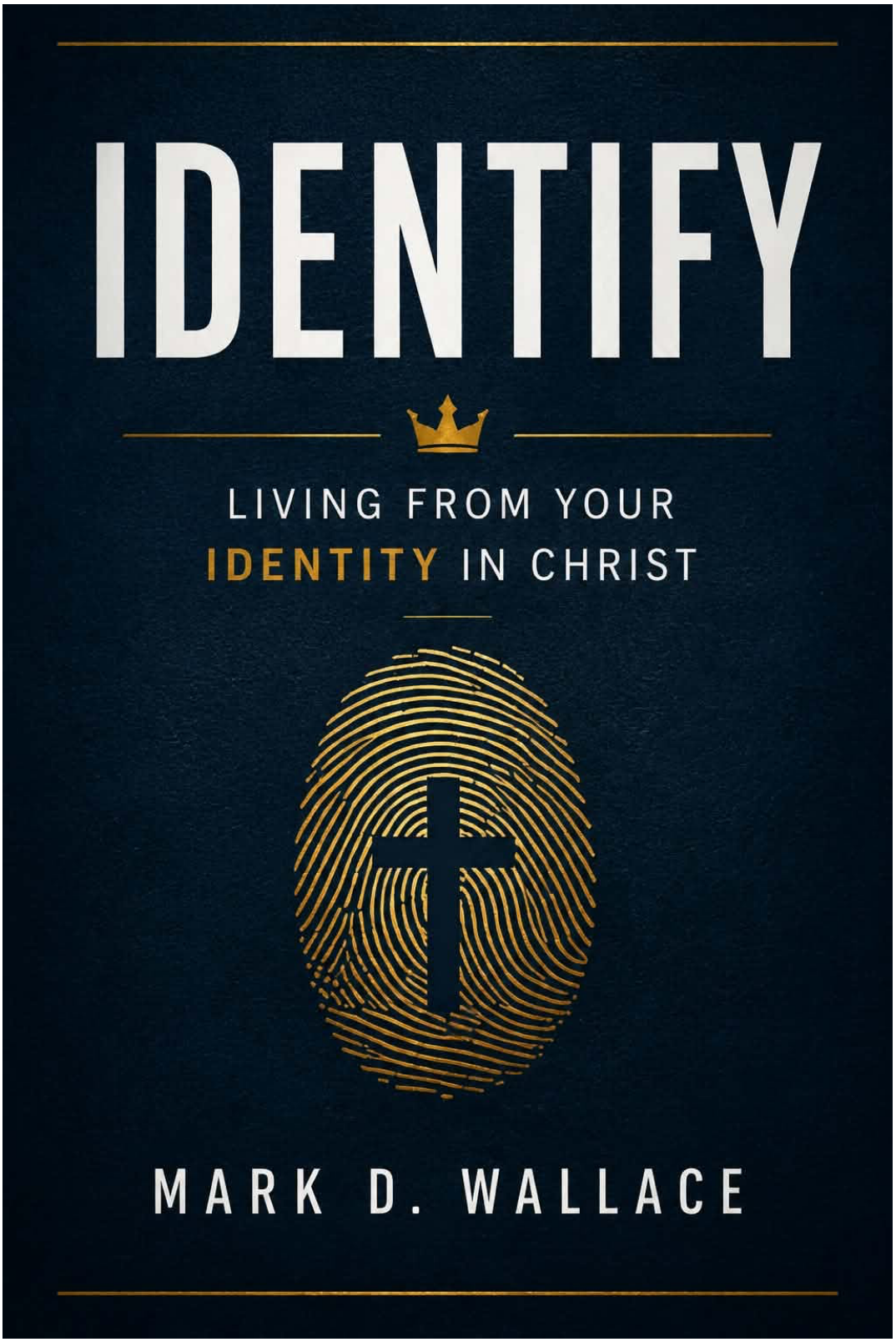


A SAMPLE CHAPTER FROM *IDENTIFY*

Chapter 1 — Identity vs Calling

One of the greatest areas of confusion in the life of a believer is the difference between identity and calling.

These two are often treated as though they are interchangeable. But they are not the same—and when they are misunderstood, it can lead to frustration, striving, and a continual sense of falling short.

Simply put:

Identity is who you are.
Purpose is why you are.
Calling is what you do.

When these are out of order, life becomes complicated.

The Pressure of Misplaced Identity

Many people have been taught—directly or indirectly—to find their identity in what they do.

We ask questions like:

1. *What is my calling?*
2. *What am I supposed to be doing?*
3. *What is God asking of me?*

While these are valid questions, they are not the starting point. When calling becomes the focus before identity is settled, it creates pressure.

We begin to measure ourselves by:

1. performance
2. effectiveness
3. visible results

And when those things fluctuate—as they inevitably do—our sense of worth fluctuates with them. This is where striving is born.

Identity Was Never Meant to Be Earned

From the very beginning, identity was never something to be achieved. It was something to be received. In the Genesis account, we see that man was created in the image and likeness of God. That identity was established before any action, responsibility, or assignment was ever given. Before there was a task, there was a relationship. Before there was a calling, there was an identity. This order is not accidental—it is foundational.

The Distortion of the Fall

When sin entered the world, it did more than introduce separation—it introduced confusion. Instead of living from identity, humanity began striving for it. Instead of resting in what was already true, we began trying to prove something. This is the pattern that still shows up today.

We attempt to:

1. earn approval
2. validate our worth
3. secure our place

But identity does not come from what we accomplish. It comes from what has already been established in Christ.

Rediscovering Identity in Christ

The gospel does not merely offer forgiveness—it restores identity. In Christ, we are not becoming something new through effort. We are awakening to what has already been made true.

This is why Scripture speaks so confidently about who we are:

1. righteous
2. accepted
3. complete

Not because of what we have done, but because of what He has done.

Why This Matters

If identity is not settled, everything else becomes unstable. Calling becomes exhausting. Purpose becomes unclear. And life becomes a constant search for something that feels just out of reach. But when identity is understood—even if only in part—something begins to shift. We stop striving to become, and we begin living from being.

Living from the Right Order

When identity comes first:

1. Calling becomes expression, not pressure
2. Purpose becomes discovery, not demand
3. Life becomes alignment, not performance

We are no longer trying to earn something—we are learning to live from something.

An Invitation to Rethink

For many, this will require a shift in thinking. Not a change in effort, but a change in perspective. This is what Scripture calls renewal of the mind. It is the process of seeing differently—of allowing truth to reshape how we understand ourselves and our relationship with God.

Looking Ahead

As we continue this journey, we will begin to explore what it means to live from identity, not just understand it. Because clarity is not the destination. Living from that clarity is.

Reflection Questions

1. Have I been defining myself more by what I do than by who I am?
2. Where have I felt pressure to prove or perform?
3. What would it look like for me to begin living from identity instead of striving for it?

Prayer of Declaration

Father, I thank You that my identity is not something I have to earn.
I receive the truth of who I am in Christ.
Teach me to live from that place of rest, not striving.
Help me to see myself the way You see me.
Amen.

The Journey Continues

Identify is an invitation to move beyond simply knowing the truth of your identity in Christ and begin living from that reality every day.

Across the chapters ahead, Mark explores sonship, belonging, freedom, spiritual maturity, and the transforming power of seeing yourself as the Father sees you.

Your identity is already established.
Your place in the family is secure.
You were never meant to live behind a mask.

Identify
by Mark D. Wallace

COMING SOON FROM TWS PUBLISHING

Thank you for reading this exclusive preview. Publication details will be announced at a later date.