



Ephesians 2:19-20

*“You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of **God’s family**. Together, we are **His house**,...”*



**Any Concept of God that
is built through a
preconceived filter will
limit your ability to
connect with God.**



Exodus 34:5-7

*“God, God, a God of **mercy** and **grace**, endlessly **patient**—so **much love**, so **deeply true**—loyal in love for a thousand generations, **forgiving** iniquity, rebellion, and sin. Still, he **doesn’t ignore sin** ... He holds ... responsible...”*



Matthew 3:16-17

*“**Jesus** came up immediately from the water; ... and He saw the **Spirit** of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is **My beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased.”*



John 8:58 (NKJV)

“Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.’”

(Message)

“Believe me,” said Jesus, “I am who I am long before Abraham was anything.”



John 10:30,33

“I and My Father are one.”

“The Jews answered Him, saying, ‘For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.’”



John 14:6

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”



Acts 4:12

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”



“Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him or kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God.”

C. S. Lewis



Jesus had been with His disciples almost 3 1/2 years and now He was headed to the climax of His ministry ... The CROSS.

In Caesarea Philippi, a region filled with various forms of pagan worship.



Before we move to the next stage of ministry we need to get this straight.

Who do you say that I am?



Matthew 16:13-19

“He pressed them, “And how about you? Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter said, “You’re the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ...My Father in heaven, God himself, let you in on this secret.”



1. Blessing

“God bless you, Simon, son of Jonah!”

The blessing is everything.

Romans 8:31

“If God is for us, who can be against us?”



2. Revelation

“God himself, let you in on this secret of who I really am.”

Tap into the expression of the Father. Divine connection.

1 Corinthians 2:16

“But we have the mind of Christ.”



3. Identity

*“...tell you who you are,
really are.”*

1 John 3:2

*“Beloved, now we are
children of God;”*



4. Purpose

“...the rock on which I will put together my church,”

God created you on purpose.

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord ... plans for good...”



5. Freedom

“...not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.”

You are powerful!

Daniel 11:32

“...the people who know there God shall be strong and so exploits.”



6. Authority

*“...access to God’s kingdom,
keys to open any and every
door:”*

You only give your keys to
people you really know and
trust.



Charles B. Williams,
The New Testament:
A Translation:

“The perfect passive participle,
here referring to a state of
having been already forbidden
[or permitted].”



Matthew 16:19

“...whatever you bind (declare to be improper and unlawful) on earth must be what is already bound in heaven; and whatever you loose (declare lawful) on earth must be what is already loosed in heaven.”



Ghandi

“If the world knew the Christ of Christians they would accept him but because they know the Christians of Christ they reject him.”



Isaiah 22:22

“The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder;”

Isaiah 9:6

“And the government will be upon His shoulder.”

What did Jesus carry on His shoulder? CROSS



Ephesians 1:7

*“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the **forgiveness of sins**, according to the riches of His grace.”*



Romans 8:15

*“...but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “**Abba, Father.**”*”



