



iIDENTITY

i am **NEW** i am **WARRIOR** i am **PRIEST** i am **BECAUSE WE ARE**

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i am

Because We Are

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Gal. 3:26-27

“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are **all one in Christ Jesus.**”



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Ephesians 2:11-22 (NIV)

One in Christ

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Ephesians 2:14-15 (The Message)

“The Messiah has made things up between us so that we're now together on this, both non-Jewish outsiders and Jewish insiders. He tore down the wall we used to keep each other at a distance. He repealed the law code that had become so clogged with fine print and footnotes that it hindered more than it helped. Then he started over. Instead of continuing with two groups of people separated by centuries of animosity and suspicion, he created a new kind of human being, a fresh start for everybody.”

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What I have learnt from Hot Climate cultures:

- The importance of relationships
- Efficiency & time do not take priority over the person
- It takes a village to raise a child



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What I have learnt from Cold Climate cultures:



- The importance of time
- Nuclear family
- You can say what you think (nicely), without it being taken personally

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[Archbishop Desmond Tutu](#) offered a definition of Ubuntu in a 1999 book:

“A person with Ubuntu is open and available to others, affirming of others, does not feel threatened that others are able and good, for he or she has a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs in a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated or diminished, when others are tortured or oppressed.”



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THREE CHALLENGES:

1. Is there anything of the past that you are still holding on to?
2. Who do you open your life to?
3. Are we intentional about Godly cross-cultural relationships?

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The Great Mystery Christ & the Church



Eph 5the two will become **one flesh**. This is a **profound mystery**—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

Eph 3 ...and to make plain to everyone the administration of this **mystery**

His intent was that now, through the church, the **manifold wisdom of God should be made known**

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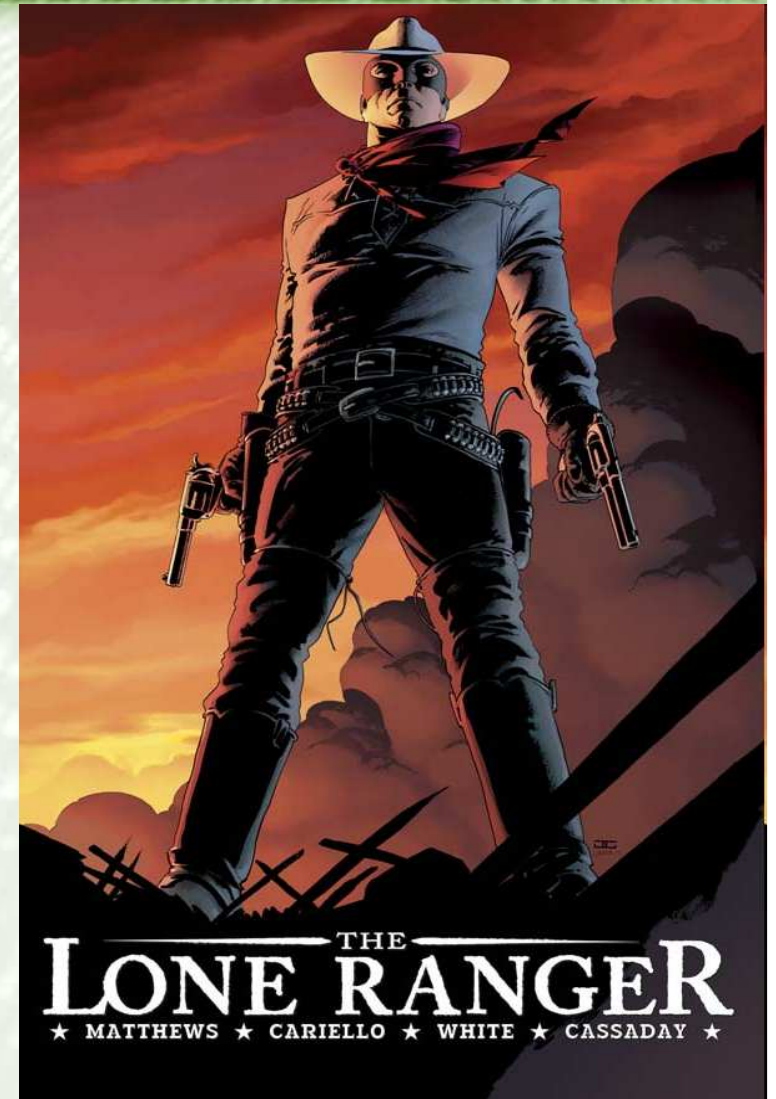
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I am not the lone ranger, I am in community

Matt 18 ..if **two of you shall agree** on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them

Matt 5 ..if you are offering your gift at the altar and **remember that your brother has something against you**, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.



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I am the Body of Christ



1 Co 12 ...so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

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We the Church are called to show the World

Jn 13v35 By this all men will know
that you are my disciples, if you
love one another

Matt 16v8 Gates of Hell will not
prevail against the church

The Church in the City prays
and prophecies over our
mayor



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The Connecting Church, Author Randy Frazee writes, “The experience of authentic community is one of the purposes God intends to be fulfilled by the church. The writings of Scripture lead one to conclude that God intends the church, not to be one more bolt on the wheel of activity in our lives, but the very hub at the center of one’s life.....”

Acts 2 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship,
All the believers were together and had everything in common.



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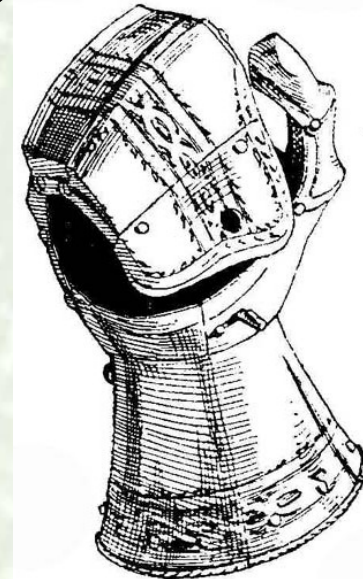
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CHALLENGES:

- Is there anything of the past that you are still holding on too?
- Who do you open your life to?
- Are we intentional about Godly cross-cultural relationships?
- **Am I experiencing all the blessings that come from being in the body?**
- **Is my identity within the body ?**
- **Ask the Lord for adventures as part of the body.**



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