



What does the Bible say about `self-identification? by [John T Polk II](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

QUESTION: What does the Bible say about `self-identification?

REPLY: We keep hearing about people who "self-identify" as Native-Americans, African-Americans, transgender, etc. The dictionary defines "self identification" as, "identification with someone or something outside oneself."

"Self-consciousness" is the awkward feeling that we do not feel comfortable with our surroundings, but we can adjust. "Self-identification" is the fiction that we can actually make ourselves something/ someone other than what we really are!

Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil? (**Jeremiah 13:23**)

Wishing to have a different skin color, native background, or gender, does not, nor cannot, change the reality of who we are. Words do not change reality.

1) This is not a new issue:

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight! (**Isaiah 5:20-21**)

People then thought by calling something by the opposite term that the thing itself would change, but it didn't.

2) The New Testament warns against "self-deception" about:

a. Who is a Christian:

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (**1 John 1:8**).

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. (**Matthew 28:18-20**)

After Saul of Tarsus “arose and was baptized” to “wash away” his sins, “calling on the name of the Lord” (**Acts 9:18; 22:16**), then in Antioch, he “assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (**Acts 11:26**). No one can “self-identify” as a Christian without doing what Jesus commanded it would take to make a disciple!

b. What sins God will accept:

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. (**1 Corinthians 6:9-10**)

People guilty of these sins cannot self-identify as Christians, unless they repent!

c. Whom God will approve on the Judgment Day:

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. (**Galatians 6:7**)

God will not ask our “selves” whether or not we deserve Heaven.

3) “Self-identification” should be avoided as a sinful attitude. Paul wrote:

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. (**Romans 12:3**)

and Paul plainly said, “Do not be wise in your own opinion.” (**Romans 12:16**)

4) Let God tell us who we are:

For I know nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God. (**1 Corinthians 4:4-5**)

— JTP II April 21, 2019