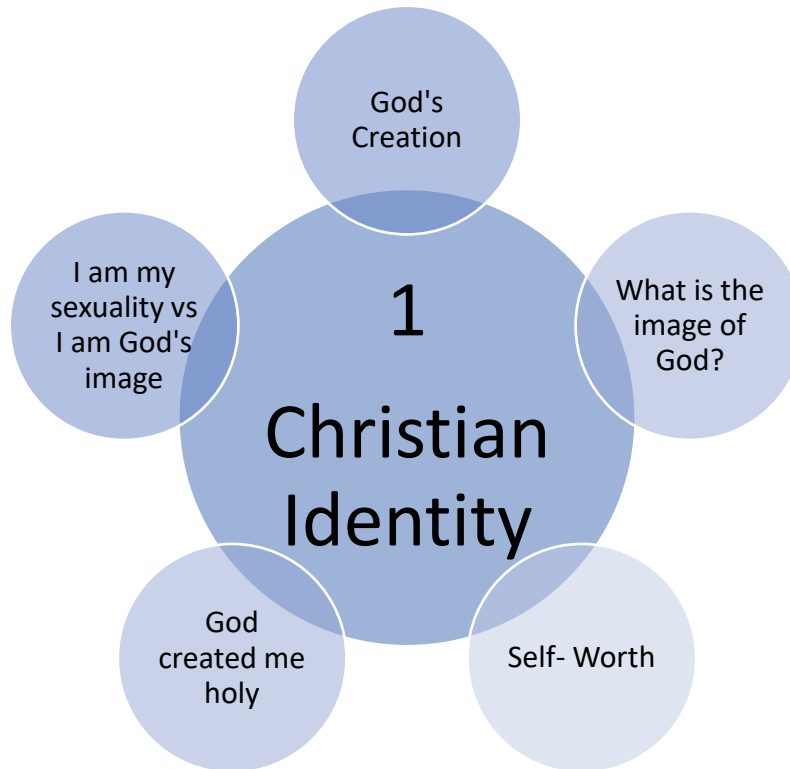




CSE TEAM

SEPTEMBER 20, 2021



## Lesson 1

### CHRISTIAN IDENTITY - Grade 1-3

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
1A: God's creation	<b>Major</b>	Minor	Minor
1B: What is the image of God	Minor	<b>Major</b>	Minor
1C: Self-worth	<b>Major</b>	Minor	<b>Major</b>
1D: God created me holy	Minor	<b>Major</b>	<b>Major</b>

- 1A: God's Creation

Who created you? Who gave you your hair color, your height, and made you the way you are?

Because God is so loving, he wanted to share His beautiful creations with us. But He created us differently.

Who can tell me how we were created?

**“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”** Genesis 2:7.

God created Adam and Eve to make the first family, first man and woman.

God's children: Like our parents, God wants to GIVE us everything, LOOK AFTER us, PROTECT us, GUIDE us, LOVE us, and wants us to live in true joy.

God put people in charge of animals and even let Adam name them. Adam needed more than just pets, so God gave Adam a companion. And that was the first family: a father and a mother. **“And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”** Genesis 2:18.

Objective → To understand that God is the creator, and He created the first man Adam and first women Eve to establish the first family, and similarly there is a father and a mother as parents.

- 1B: What is the image of God?

What does it mean that you are created in the image of God?

We are created in the image of God, His likeness in love, kindness, and care.

We have common features, qualities and characteristics of our mom and dad, we are also created in God's image and share in His virtues, qualities and characteristics.

**“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”** (Genesis 1:27)

What does it mean to be a child of God?

It means that:

I can talk to God every day and can share my day with Him.

His holy spirit works in me.

my parents teach me about God.

the priest guides me spiritually.

this means that I have the Bible as my guide.

I have my church that helps me stay connected with God.

*Objective → To know that we are not just materialistic animals who are only here to survive in the flesh and body, but we also have spirit and logic.*

- 1C: Self-Worth

- When we do something good, it is important to feel good about ourselves.
- We are special because we are God's children.
- All human bodies are equally important – there are people who look different than us, or have special needs and need assistance in walking or talking.
- We need to respect each other.
- Each person should be proud of his/her own body – because God created our bodies.
- Our differences make us unique – Were you created the same as your friend? Individual bodies are different in sizes, shapes, and colors.

***(This point is for the servants only) Did you know God creates work of art? The bible says that we are his workmanship. He has worked on us and thought about how we would look, the type of person we would be. Our talents, our dreams. Our likes and dislikes and our unique personalities, there is nobody else like each of us on the planet!***

We are children of God! **“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.”** John 15:15. When we pray we say **“Our Father who art in heaven”**

**“I'm fearfully and wonderfully made”** Psalm 139:14. David did not complain or moan about the way he looked or compare himself to others. He knew that God loved him just how he was. He was thankful because he knew that God had fearfully and wonderfully made him.

What does fearful mean?

The word fearfully is another way of saying “wow” and being awe: amazed at what GOD can do! God had created David in a way that was wonderful. David praised God for how amazing God's creation is.

*Objective → To recognize how unique they are, and to feel joy and thankful.*

- 1D: God created me holy

God said to Adam that if you eat from the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, you shall die. The result of sin (disobeying God) is death. But even though we sinned, and saddened God, He loves us so much that He died for us on the cross to take away that sin.

Our nature was renewed in baptism (new creation).

Does anyone know about the life of a butterfly? The caterpillar is small and a little creepy, but after it transforms into a butterfly it looks beautiful. After baptism we become children of God and are transformed. We are precious to our Creator. We are given a new nature and the Holy Spirit within us that guides us and helps us grow. We are a new creation. **“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new”** 2 Corinthians 5:17

You are the temple of God.

What does the word temple mean? The Holy Spirit lives in me and I have accepted Jesus into my life, God created all my body organs; each part is holy and has a function. In Baptism, the priest anoints the child 36 times with the Holy Myroun Oil, so each part of the body is sanctified.

Can you name your body parts?

Since our bodies are the temple of the Holy spirit, how do we take care of it?

I must take care of this body and spirit that God gave me.

Read, eat healthy, have enough sleep.

Also feed my spirit by prayers, reading the bible, and partaking of the Holy Communion.

*Objective → To understand that the body is just as equally important and needs to be preserved in purity with the spirit and mind. Emphasize that all parts of our body are important and have a purpose is God's divine design for each of us.*

## CHRISTIAN IDENTITY - Grade 4-6

	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
1A: God's Creation	<b>Major</b>	Minor	<b>Major</b>
1B: What is the image of God	Minor	<b>Major</b>	Minor
1C: Self-worth	<b>Major</b>	Minor	<b>Major</b>
1D: God created me holy	Minor	<b>Major</b>	<b>Major</b>

- 1A: God's Creation

Why did God create us?

- Because He loves us and wants us to live with Him in eternity.

Who did God create when He created humans?

- Adam & Eve
- Male & Female
- Man & Woman (2 mature wise adults)
- Husband & Wife (United and blessed by God)

So, when God creates each one of us:

- First, He chose our Gender (Male or Female) → And then creates our bodies accordingly. When a baby is born → Right away the doctor knows if that baby is a boy or a girl (Male or a female). The gender is printed in every cell of the human body.

***If the servant got asked about gender diversity, please refer to the relationships in Christianity lesson plan for readiness.***

- Why do you think God created a Male and a female?
- God created man and woman different in their shape, their body and in their way of thinking. That way they can help each other and complete one another.

Objective → To realize that gender is a choice of God. Point out that man and women are not identical however they are created equally.

- 1B: What is the image of God?

Does anyone really know what God looks like?

- No, so that verse did not mean our body image.

So, what does it mean: "The image of God?"

- The bible describes God in so many words including: Holy, Pure, Righteous, "The Truth" ...etc.

So, these are some of the virtues that God created in us, to be in His own image!

Not only do we need to keep our bodies safe and healthy, we also need to keep our spirit and mind safe and healthy.

How do we keep our Spirit Healthy?

- Feel the presence of God:  
We form a friendship with God.  
Talk to Him about our day.

Thank Him for our blessings (big or small).  
Ask Him to guide us to the right way.

- Live to the true meaning of “Thy will be done”. Submit to God’s will, when things do not go our way even though we did our best efforts, we must be of good cheer because God is preventing something bad from happening to us.
- Ask your father of confession for spiritual exercises to help you experience God.
- Follow our church Belief System:  
Go to Church Read the Bible (Our reference = Our Manual), Partake in communion
- When in doubt, ask the right people:  
Who do we ask? A trusted adult.  
Like whom? Our parents, our priest at church, Sunday school servant ...etc.  
Do we ask a friend? No  
Why? They are still young like us; they did not have enough time to read the Bible or have the right experiences to give us advice.

Objective → To develop the sense of belonging to God and focus on personal relationship with God.

- 1C: Self-worth  
God gave us many talents and spiritual gifts...Each and every one of us is different, unique and valuable to God. When we put an effort and do something good → We Thank God.  
If we do something wrong (Which we all do) → God gave us a way back → Repent & Confess. These are the moments in our lives that we feel God’s grace, love and forgiveness.  
**God is forgiving.**  
My mistakes, my sins, my past does not define my identity...It all depends on what we choose to do from there.

God gave me talents – “**I can do all things through Christ**” (Philippians 4:13)  
God loves me – “**I have loved you**” (Isaiah 43:4) “with an Everlasting love” (Jeremiah 31:3)

Objective → To develop self-acceptance and start the habit of putting God first, He is the source of their value and their success and also when we do something wrong, we shouldn’t over blame ourselves because God’s love to us is not changeable.

- 1D: God created me Holy.  
God planned marriage so that husband and wife enjoy Holy unity emotionally, spiritually, and physically.
  - What do we do when someone gives us a gift?  
We keep the gift because it is precious, we protect it and be thankful for it.
  - Our Body is a gift from God, what do we do to protect that gift?

Shower, brush, eat healthy, sleep, exercise.

- What are the different parts of the body that God created for us?

Arms, Legs, brain, private parts (the parts that our bathing suits cover)...

God gave us private parts that we need to protect as well.

- What do we do when we go to the bathroom?

We make sure we have privacy, and make sure that the door is closed.

- What do we do if someone tries to touch our private parts?

We say NO and stop them immediately, without being shy or afraid...We find a trusted adult and ask for help: a teacher, our parents ... etc.

Objective → To recognize the importance of God's gift to each one - their body.



## CHRISTIAN IDENTITY - Grade 7-9

	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
1A: God's Creation	Minor	<b>Major</b>	Minor
1B: What is the image of God	<b>Major</b>	Minor	Minor
1C: Self-Worth	<b>Major</b>	Minor	<b>Major</b>
1D: God created me holy	Minor	<b>Major</b>	<b>Major</b>
1E: I am my sexuality vs I am God's image	<b>Major</b>	Minor	Minor

- 1A: God's Creation
  - God created Adam and Eve, pure and holy and only when they committed sin, they felt ashamed, and they thought they were naked! the shame and fear was the sin consequence and not their nakedness. **“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings”** (Gen 3:7)
  - Our identity is derived from God and with His redemption we are **“called children of God”** (1 John 3:1) & (John 1:12)
  - God is constantly pouring out his grace and reminding us of who we are. He is constantly reminding us not to dwell on failures, but rather repent and receive His grace, and move on.

*Objective → To understand that God's creation for Adam and Eve was perfect, any and all guilt and shame they experiences were the consequences of sin. These feelings now lead us to say sorry for mistakes, to receive God's forgiveness and mercy through confession and then ask God to help us not make those mistakes again, through our repentance.*

- 1B: What is the image of God?
 

God is pure, I am originally created to be pure.  
God is the truth.

Do you remember this picture? That is Pontius Pilate and our Lord Jesus. John 18: 37. “Pilate therefore said to Him. “Are you a King then?” Jesus answered, **“You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my Voice”**. Pilate answered, what is Truth? Jesus did not answer him because the Truth was standing in front of him.

My will should be according to God's will.  
When we have a pure heart and loving attitude towards everyone, we restore God's image in us.

A Child of God belief system is composed of multiple elements that revolve around the following:

1. My conscience is guided by the Holy Spirit.

2. The Holy Bible **“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”** Hebrews 4:12,
3. The Church: how the church understands the bible, all the writings of the early fathers, the apostle’s writings, the saints, the sacraments of the church. It is important to be an active part of the church, (not just attending church passively and not really participating in anything).
4. The priest: Your father of confession can be your mentor. He can guide you in your spiritual life and struggles that you go through. You may also have some role models, they can be your Sunday school teachers, your relatives, or someone you discern or determine his/her life in accordance to the church’s role model. A life mentor could be someone who is physically dead (has already departed) – we listen to their sermons or read their books. Can a spiritual mentor be someone from high school or university? Definitely not because they are still growing in their own spiritual knowledge like you are.
5. Your parents.

Objective → To understand who we are and our belief system.

- 1C: Self-Worth
  - My identity does not lie in my mistakes, my struggles, my embarrassing moments, those are discouraging negative voices in my head. My identity comes from God.
  - The secular world view of self-value or worth is influenced by figure, comparison and achievements. These are part of life but NOT the factors of my value and my worth. I am very loved and valuable through Him; I am so valuable that He died for me. Our worthiness is in His blood shed on the cross to give us eternal life. **“I am fearfully & wonderfully made”** (Psalm 139:14)  
**“Since you were precious in My sight, You have been honored, And I have loved you; Therefore I will give men for you, And people for your life.”** (Isaiah 43:4)
  - My value comes from God, Jesus gave His life to save me. If the whole world were only me, He would come and die for me. “My Lord, you embrace my presence with your care, as if you do not look to the last but watch over me as if you have forgotten the whole creation, giving me your gifts and as if I were the only subject of your love” St. Augustine.
  - Each one of us has an earthly father and God is our heavenly Father. **“your heavenly Father”** (Matthew 6:26) Our worthiness comes from God.  
**“Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.”** (1 Peter 3:4)

Objective → To realize that self-value comes from Christ.

- 1D: God created me holy.
  - God creates our body, mind, and spirit, holy and pure. My body does not have less value of my spirit nor more value than mind. All are created pure and equally important.
  - God created sexuality for marriage, so husband and wife enjoy unity emotionally, spiritually, and physically.

Objective → To honor human body and preserve as a gift to a future spouse or purity for God

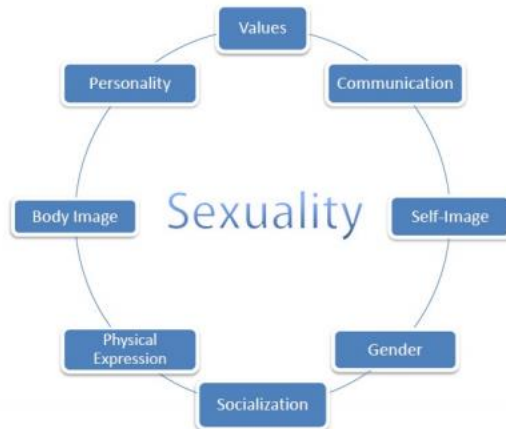
- 1E: I am my sexuality vs I am God's image.
  - My body is a gift from God to me. Sexuality is only part of my life. It is not the center of my life, God is. **“Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit”** (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
  - What do you do with your most precious gift? Yourself!
    - Grow your mind in education.
    - Grow your spirit in life of prayer.
    - keep your body pure, healthy, and safe.
    - I am not what I feel, feelings are temporary and change often, my identity in Christ does not change, I will always be His son or His daughter no matter what my temporary feelings are

Objective → To realize the difference between God's plan and world's view of sexuality, please check sexuality wheel in Appendix A

## Appendix A

### Section - 1E – I am my sexuality vs I am God's image

➤ Sexuality wheel



Sexuality wheel: this is from Alberta Sex curriculum and Alberta health website, this is how they define sexuality, it includes all this

<https://teachingsexualhealth.ca/app/uploads/sites/4/Sexual-and-Development-Disability-Guide-2016.pdf>

It is important to discussing this in because it is everywhere around youth, school. Media, friends and society is making sexuality as the center of life. As servants for Christ, we need to guide the youth that this is NOT Christ's path. Only God is the center of our life.