

REVEALED

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CONTENT SAMPLER

UNEDITED MANUSCRIPT

NOT FINAL INTERIOR DESIGN

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SAMPLER
NOT FOR RESALE

INTRODUCTION

Who are you?

It's a question you probably ask yourself all the time...I mean ALL THE TIME.

There's the self your parents see.

The self your friends like.

The self that gets made fun of.

The self you like or don't like—depending on the day.

And the self you try to be.

So who are you?

All the above? A little bit of each? Or maybe, none of them answer the question. .

Have you ever thought about being a Private Investigator? A detective? A Cold Case solver? You may have been inspired by an investigator on television.

There are many different crime shows on TV, but the basic plot line of all of them is the same. A crime is committed. A brilliant team of investigators (all with special talents) come together to solve the mystery. Then there's a commercial break, an action scene involving cars, some talking, and another commercial. Finally, an amazing chase on foot

through a crowded fruit market, where the crook is caught, and the heroes triumph.

Let's you and I take on a case together. It may not look exactly like the TV shows— I can't promise a heart-thumping car chase—but it certainly will be important, because this case involves something you should find very interesting—YOU.

And here's the mystery: Who are you?

Time to wrap some yellow police tape around yourself, and ask yourself kindly not to touch anything, because you're the one under investigation

Many crime shows take place in big cities like New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami, or Honolulu, but, this kind of investigation is happening all the time, and everywhere.

Starting at an early age, guys just like you are asking themselves the same question: *Who am I?*

You can answer simply by saying: *I'm Hispanic, I'm level 92 on Fortnite, I get all A's, I collect snakes, or I'm an athlete.* We usually stop there. But, it's not that simple because what you really want to know is your IDENTITY.

Your identity is the foundation of all of you: past, present, future; internal thoughts and external behavior; thoughts, actions, beliefs; your motivation and drive.

It's more than just saying "HI, MY NAME IS BILL SMITH." "Bill" is a name that identifies you. "Smith" separates you from other Bills. Then what? There are thou-

sands of other Bill Smiths. Are they all the same? Of course their fingerprints and DNA are different, but more than that. They all look, sound, and act different, with different dreams and different motivations. Their identities are unique. But, there are some similarities that we all share that can help us discover our unique identities.

In truth, there are four questions that need to be answered:

Who are you?

What have you done?

What have you become?

Where are you going?

The Bible has revealed the answer to all four of these questions, and in the end, will help you discover your true identity. Spoiler alert! What it will show you is that your identity is discovered in Jesus Christ.

So, why do we need to answer these questions? Because this crazy world will try to tell you who you are, and it won't line up with who you REALLY are. The world will lie to you at every turn, and as a result, you will struggle with doubt, hopelessness, and pain. Once you reveal the answers who you are, you can face the future with confidence and assurance.

Let's take on this case and find the answers.

The revelation will have eternal consequences.

REVEALED

SECTION 1
WHO ARE YOU?

CHAPTER 1

THERE'S BEEN A CRIME

Let's say you get out of school, walk out to the parking lot to go home, and you discover...

YOUR CAR IS GONE!

Immediately you look at the scene, examining for clues.

There are cars all around safe and intact, but yours is gone. No one else seems to be worried or missing their cars.

You begin to ask questions...

“Hey, has anyone seen my car?! Did you see someone take it?”

Something like that. Sadly, no one saw anything.

You look around for security cameras and spot one on a near by lamp post that is pointed in the right direction.

You run inside to find Mr. Burly Jenkins. He's a former Navy Seal, once saved the President's life, and is now the head of security for your school. As you tell him what's happened, he runs to his computer, pulls up the camera footage, and rewinds through time until he finds the culprit.

Mr. Ainsley! Wait... your fourth-period chemistry teacher stole your car?

You and Burly Jenkins rush to his security golf cart. You fly down the road right into Mr. Ainsley's yard. Sure, you could have parked on the street or in the driveway, but the yard is much more dramatic. You spot Mr. Ainsley in the garage, working on your car. Burly tackles Ainsley (did we mention that he also played for the Philadelphia Eagles as a defensive lineman) and ties him to a chair.

You click on a flashlight, pushing the light in his eyes, to let him know just how serious you are. And the interrogation begins.

WHAT IS YOUR FIRST QUESTION?

You probably didn't ask Mr. Ainsley:

- How was your day?
- What did you have for lunch?
- How's Mrs. Ainsley?
- Did I pass my mid-term?

No, you probably asked:

- Who do you think you are?
- Why did you steal my car?
- Do you regret what you've done?
- What are we going to do to fix this?

Any good investigator gets right to the point.

- **IDENTITY:** Who is this person?
- **CONFESSION:** Did they commit the crime?
- **MOTIVE:** Why did they commit this crime?
- **REPENTANCE:** Do they regret what they have done, and are they going to turn away from their life of crime?

These are the questions you *would* ask Mr. Ainsley, but Mr. Ainsley realizes he's tied to a rolling chair and pushes himself out the garage door, and down the driveway. You hop on a stray skateboard and pursue him as he speeds towards the busy road; catching him just before he crashes into an ice cream truck. Just like the movies.

Okay, that probably didn't happen, but every story needs a few chase scenes.

Back to the point, mysteries can only be solved if the right questions are asked.

