

Identity Crisis

Who am I?

Who am I?

- I can be anything I want to be
- I have complete freedom in defining myself and determining my own identity
- The internal truth I discover about myself supersedes all external “truths”
- My personal truth is my reality, regardless of how it may conflict with “the real world”

Jason's Story

When he cut off his right arm with a “very sharp power tool,” a man who now calls himself One Hand Jason let everyone believe it was an accident.

But he had for months tried different means of cutting and crushing the limb that never quite felt like his own, training himself on first aid so he wouldn't bleed to death, even practicing on animal parts sourced from a butcher.

“My goal was to get the job done with no hope of reconstruction or re-attachment, and I wanted some method that I could actually bring myself to do,” he told the body modification website ModBlog.

His goal was to become disabled.

“Transabled”

People like Jason have been classified as “transabled” — feeling like imposters in their bodies, their arms and legs in full working order.

“We define transability as the desire or the need for a person identified as able-bodied by other people to transform his or her body to obtain a physical impairment,” says Alexandre Baril, a Quebec born academic who will present on “transability” at this week’s Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities at the University of Ottawa.

“The person could want to become deaf, blind, amputee, paraplegic. It’s a really, really strong desire.”

Obtaining a Physical Impairment

Clive Baldwin, ...has interviewed 37 people worldwide who identify as transabled.

Many ... arrange “accidents” to help achieve the goal. One dropped an incredibly heavy concrete block on his legs — an attempt to injure himself so bad an amputation would be necessary. But doctors saved the leg. He limps, but it’s not the disability he wanted.

Some ... draw parallels to the experience many transgender people express of not feeling like they’re in the right body.

He suggests this is just another form of body diversity — like transgenderism — and amputation may help someone achieve similar goals as someone who, say, undergoes cosmetic surgery to look more like who they believe their ideal selves to be.

In the late 1990s, Scottish surgeon Dr. Robert Smith amputated the legs of two patients at their request. [E]ach patient paid nearly \$6,000 for their procedures.

Amber Shuping

- Wanted to be blind for most of her life and spent a lot of time pretending to be blind
- Tried to become blind by staring at the sun
- In 2008, At age 23 was assisted by a psychologist to destroy her eyesight
- He applied drain cleaner to her eyes, and now she is blind

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- The internal truth I discover about myself supersedes all external “truths”
- My personal truth is my reality, regardless of how it may conflict with “the real world”
- I am the sum of my strongest desires or inclinations
- I am constantly frustrated by the constraints placed on “who I am” by external realities

James 3:15–16 (NKJV)

15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. **16** For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

James 3:17 (NKJV)

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

Who am I?

- I am a spirit, made in the image of God

I am a Spirit, Made in the Image of God

Genesis 1:26–27 - Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” **27** So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis 2:7 -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.

Who am I?

- I am a spirit, made in the image of God
- I am an immortal spirit

I am an immortal spirit

Revelation 14:9–11 - “If anyone worships the beast and his image, ... he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God.... He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends **forever and ever**; and they have no rest day or night.”

Revelation 22:3–5 – ... His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign **forever and ever**.

Who am I?

- I am a spirit, made in the image of God
- I am an immortal spirit
- I possess a mortal, physical human body

I Possess a Mortal Physical Body

Genesis 2:7 - 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 3:19 - In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.”

Who am I?

- I am a spirit, made in the image of God
- I am an immortal spirit
- I possess a mortal, physical human body
- My physical body is either male or female

I am Male or Female in my Physical Body

Genesis 1:27 - So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Matthew 19:4–6 - And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ **5** and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? **6** So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

Who am I?

- I am a spirit, made in the image of God
- I am an immortal spirit
- I possess a mortal, physical human body
- My physical body is either male or female
- I am different from every other person that has ever existed, resulting in unique possibilities as well as unique limitations

I am Unique

Psalm 139:13–14 - For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. **14** I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

1 Corinthians 12:14–17 - For in fact the body is not one member but many. **15** If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? **16** And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? **17** If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?

Matthew 5:36 (NKJV)

Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black.

Identity Crisis

If I am discontent with how God made me, the problem is not how God made me, the problem is my discontent.

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- I am the product of what God has made me and what I am making of myself

Matthew 25:14–30

“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. **15** To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. **16** He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. **17** So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. **18** But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money.

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- I am what I am because of the “I AM”

I am who I am because of the I AM

Exodus 3:13–14 - Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” **14** God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ”

Exodus 20:1–3 - And God spoke all these words, saying: **2** “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. **3** “You shall have no other gods before Me.

Who am I? The World's Answers

- I can be anything I want to be
- I have complete freedom in defining myself and determining my own identity
- The internal truth I discover about myself supersedes all external “truths”
- My personal truth is my reality, regardless of how it may conflict with “the real world”
- The wrong answers produce confusion!

Believing God

John 3:31–33 - He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. **32** And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony. **33** He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true.

1 John 5:10 - He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

Who am I? God's answers

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- I am the product of what God has made me and what I am making of myself
- I am what I am because of the "I AM"
- The right answers produce PEACE!

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)

1 Peter 2:7–10 -...to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, “The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,” **8** and “A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.” They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed. **9** But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; **10** who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

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