"We will never fully understand who we are until we fully understand whose we are."

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In other words... "Who I am is determined by whose I am."

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Genesis 4:12-15

12 When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.

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13 Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear.

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14 Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

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15 Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD put a "mark" on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. (ESV)

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The word "mark" comes from the Hebrew word "owth". It is defined as follows:

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"a signal, an omen, evidence, a sign, a distinguishing mark, a banner, a remembrance, a miraculous sign, a warning, proof."

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Ezekiel 9:1-11

1 He (an angel that God used to communicate His message to Ezekiel) cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand.

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2 And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer’s inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brasen altar.

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3 And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer’s inkhorn by his side;

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4 And the LORD said unto him (the angel with the inkhorn), Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark (Tav - (tawv) a signature: desire, "a sign of exemption from judgment") upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

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5 And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:

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6 Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.

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7 And he said unto them, Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth. And they went forth, and slew in the city.

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8 And it came to pass, while they were slaying them, and I was left, that I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy fury upon Jerusalem?

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9 Then said he unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and

the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, The LORD hath forsaken the earth, and the LORD seeth not.

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10 And as for me also, mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, but I will recompense their way upon their head.

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11 And, behold, the man clothed with linen, which had the inkhorn by his side, reported the matter, saying, I have done as thou hast commanded me. (ESV)

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Romans 11:22

Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off. (NIV)

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Revelation 13:11-18

11 Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon.

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12 It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed.

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13 It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people,

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14 and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

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15 And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.

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16 Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead,

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17 so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.

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18 This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666. (ESV)

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Galatians 6:12-17

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12 As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised (the mark of the law); only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.

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13 For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.

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14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

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15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. (In Romans 2:29 Paul refers to the "circumcision of the heart.")

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16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

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17 From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

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The word "Marks" in verse 17 comes from the Greek word "stígma".

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Stígma: "a mark from an incision or a hole that is pierced/punched through (for recognition of ownership), i.e. (figuratively) scar of service:--a mark branded upon the body. To ancient times, slaves and soldiers bore the name or the stamp of their master or commander through a mark that had been branded or cut into their bodies to indicate what master or general they belonged to.)

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Ephesians 4:29-32

29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

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30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

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31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

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32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (ESV)

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The word "sealed" in this verse comes from the Greek word "sphragizo" (sfrag-id-zo) and it is defined as follows: "to stamp with a signet or private mark for security or preservation."

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God loves us with an everlasting love

Once receiving the mark, we are to love Him and others with the same depth of love.

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John 13:34-35

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

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35 By this (The identifying mark of God) all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (ESV)

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I Peter 4:8

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. (ESV)

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1 John 4:19-21

19 We love because he first loved us.

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20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

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21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. (ESV)