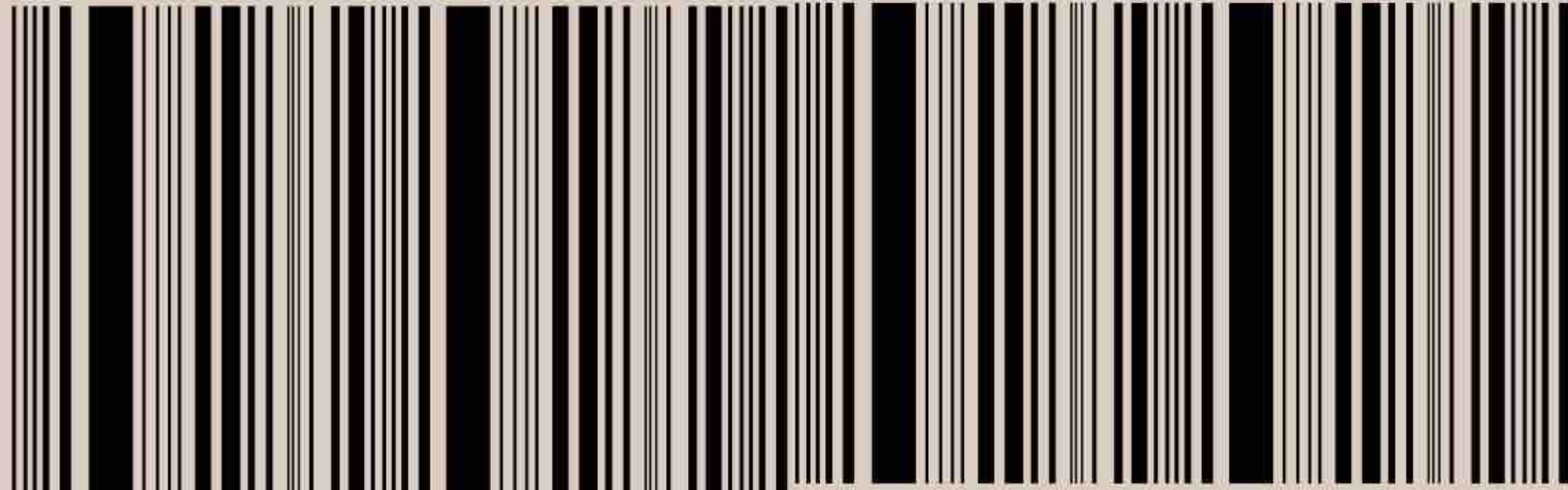


**How can we know our  
true identity?**





**BELIEVE**

The Gospel of **John**

<sup>22</sup> After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. <sup>23</sup> John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized <sup>24</sup> (for John had not yet been put in prison).

**John 3:22-24 ESV**



<sup>25</sup> Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. <sup>26</sup> And they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him.” <sup>27</sup> John answered, “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven.

**John 3:25–27 ESV**



<sup>28</sup> You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' <sup>29</sup> The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. <sup>30</sup> He must increase, but I must decrease."

**John 3:28-30 ESV**



<sup>31</sup> He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. <sup>32</sup> He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. <sup>33</sup> Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true.

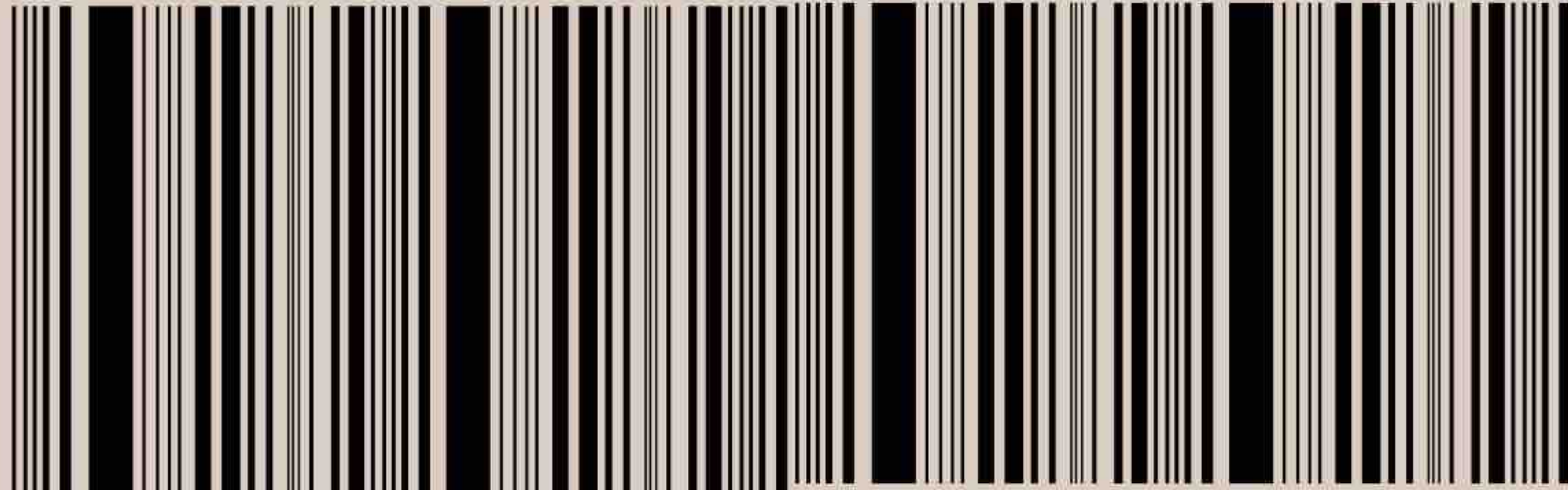
**John 3:31-33 ESV**



<sup>34</sup> For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. <sup>35</sup> The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. <sup>36</sup> Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

**John 3:34-36 ESV**





**BELIEVE**

The Gospel of **John**



# **John 3:22–36**

## **I. Understanding our identity**

# I. **Understanding our identity**

## a. The Right Perspective



<sup>27</sup> John answered, “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is **given him from heaven.**”

**John 3:27 ESV**



<sup>10</sup> So Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?” <sup>11</sup> Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been **given you from above...**

**John 19:10-11 ESV**



# I. Understanding our identity

- a. The Right Perspective
- b. Clarity about who we are



<sup>22</sup> So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup> He said, “**I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness**, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

**John 1:22-23 ESV**



*“The ultimate form of intrinsic motivation is when a habit becomes part of your identity. It’s one thing to say I’m the type of person who wants this. It’s something very different to say I’m the type of person who is this.”*

**James Clear**  
**Atomic Habits**



# I. Understanding our identity

- a. The Right Perspective
- b. Clarity about who we are
- c. Clarity about who we aren't





<sup>29</sup> The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete.

**John 3:29** ESV



# **When we don't know our identity:**

1. Threatened by our failures or other's successes

*The Enemy (God) wants to bring the man to a state of mind in which he could design the best cathedral in the world, and know it to be the best, and rejoice in the fact, without being any more (or less) or otherwise glad at having done it than he would be if it had been done by another.*

## **The Screwtape Letters**



# When we don't know our identity:

1. Threatened by our failures or other's successes
2. Jealous of others



<sup>26</sup> Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. <sup>27</sup> And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.”

**Numbers 11:26–27** ESV



<sup>28</sup> And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, “My lord Moses, stop them.” <sup>29</sup> But Moses said to him, “**Are you jealous for my sake?** Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!”

**Numbers 11:28–29** ESV



# When we don't know our identity:

1. Threatened by our failures or other's successes
2. Jealous of others
3. Get caught in the comparison trap

<sup>46</sup> An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. <sup>47</sup> But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side <sup>48</sup> and said to them, “Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great.”

**Luke 9:46–48** ESV





# I. Understanding our identity

- a. The Right Perspective
- b. Clarity about who we are
- c. Clarity about who we aren't
- d. We decrease so Christ might increase



<sup>30</sup> He must increase, but I must decrease.”

**John 3:30** ESV



*“When I am gone, don’t talk about William Carey; talk about William Carey’s Savior. I desire that Christ alone might be magnified.”*

**William Carey**



# **John 3:22–36**

**I. Understanding our identity**

**II. Understanding Jesus' identity**



<sup>31</sup> He who **comes from above** is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all.

**John 30:31** ESV



## II. Understanding Jesus' identity

- a. Jesus is God incarnate



<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

**Colossians 1:15-17** ESV



## II. Understanding Jesus' identity

- a. Jesus is God incarnate
- b. Jesus is the giver of eternal life





<sup>36</sup> Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God.

**John 3:36** ESV



# Apart from Christ

1. Separated from God (Isa. 59:2)
2. Slaves to Sin (Rom. 6:20)
3. Spiritually Dead (Eph. 2:1-2)



# Identity in Christ

1. Children of God (John 1:12)
2. New Creation (2 Cor. 5:17)
3. Co-heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17)



**How can we know our  
true identity?**



**We can only know  
who we are if we know  
who Jesus is.**

