

You Can Begin Again

When You Know Your Identity

Pastor Derwin L. Gray – September 3, 2017

How Do We Remain Faithful to God? (Matthew 1:18-21 CSB)

1. By faith in Christ, you must know that your identity is more important than your reputation.
(Matthew 1:18-19 CSB)

o Tsadiq (tsa-DEEK) – one who studies the Torah seriously.

o Am ha-aretz: one who does not observe the Torah; don't – tithe, eat pork, hang out with Gentiles.

2. By faith in Christ, will you turn exclusively to the Lord for your identity? You are a child of Abba.
(Galatians 4:4-7 CSB, 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 CSB)

o Joseph becomes like the Am ha-aretz in the eyes of the tsadiqim to provide room for a baby boy who gives the Am ha-aretz an identity better than the tsadiqim. (Matthew 1:21 CSB, Romans 3:22-24 NIV)

Soul-tattoo: 1. Daily, ask Jesus to help you live in your identity as Abba's child and for your love for everyone to increase.

2. Sign up to be baptized.

• **Recommended Reading:** *Jesus Creed* by Scot McKnight, PhD

• **Bible Reading Plan:** We're reading the book of Luke together during our "You Can Begin Again" series. Find each week's reading plan on our website, in the weekly study guide, and in the TC News. We're currently reading Luke 4.