

# Guard Your Gift



**“With the help of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard what has been entrusted to you.” The**

## **Apostle Paul | 2 Timothy 1:14 (NLT)**

### **Contaminated?**

Who hasn't played with Play-Doh? Who hasn't ended up with the colors all mixed together? It seems to be deeply set in our nature to create things that require multiple colors to bring them to life. If you were like me as a kid, before long you'd end up with one big multicolored blob. Unable to undo this contaminated mess, you'd have to buy more. But what if you were given only one set for your entire life, with no option to buy more? Perhaps you'd put greater effort into protecting the purity of the colors, guarding them carefully so as not to let them get contaminated. It is with this level of care that you need to protect your Character Identity.

### **You were made pure.**

Your Character Identity is the combination of two generic roles that capture your unique God given essence; a pure God given gift that he planned for you from the beginning.

*You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. King David | Psalm 139:13-14 (NLT)*

God is a master craftsman; he makes no mistakes. No two of us are alike. You are marvelous! I am marvelous! We all are! But, like that Play-Doh, we can become contaminated by life.

**Sin leads to contamination that gloms onto us as we pursue our work.**

Ambition, parental pressure, opportunity, circumstance...you name it... leads us down paths where we drift from who God made us to be. If we don't carefully guard our Character Identity, we'll end up like that multicolored Play-Doh blob and fail to flourish. I meet a lot of people who have lost sight of their pure, God given identity. Sadly, they are not flourishing.

**“I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free.”  
...Michelangelo**

Like Michelangelo's angel was intact inside the stone, your Character Identity is intact within you. You just need to strip away the lies, the false selves, that have contaminated you.

### **Get the chisel out.**

Stripping away the lies that have accumulated requires the sharp-edged truth; brutal honesty. Not thinking more highly of yourself and just as importantly, not thinking too low of yourself.

*“I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.” The Apostle Paul | Romans 12:3 (NLT)*

It takes a sober assessment to get a firm grip on your Character Identity. I find this requires a process of assessments, reflection and extended, dedicated time with God. Once you know your Character Identity, you will feel a tremendous sense of freedom to be you. Then it's a matter of “Being it More.” This requires a steady movement toward your Character Identity and away from the lies. Often this means making some hard, but liberating choices. You will not regret living out your Character Identity.

**Watch out for this trap!**

There's another key to guarding the purity your Character Identity. As you pursue your Life Mission, you will be tempted to do things beyond your gifting. I see this all of the time! Was God hindering you when he limited your Character Identity?

*"A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other." The Apostle Paul| 1 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT)*

The fact is that you were not gifted with everything you need to fulfill your Life Mission. Accept this truth!

In his great wisdom, God has placed others around you, complementarily gifted, to help you. What's more is that God has given each of us a universal gift that is vital – the ability to connect with the other parts of the body. **What I see far too often is people failing to connect with the others they need to fulfill their Life Missions.** Trying to go it alone leads to failure. Watch out!

Our Reach New Peaks Workshop will help you uncover your Character Identity and guide you to build a complementary team to support you. Flourish as you fulfill the mission God has you here for! Let's talk.

**Guard Your Gift!**

## Spirit Talk

[Post this where you will see it regularly.](#)

**"My Character Identity lies deep within my heart."**

"The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." The Lord| 1 Samuel 7 (NLT)



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