

The Development of Christian Identity

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STYLES OF FAITH (Common Ages-Varies & Recurs)	EXPERIENCED FAITH (Childhood: Pre-school, Primary)	AFFILIATIVE FAITH (Early Adol: Intermed./Junior High)	SEARCHING FAITH (Adol: High School-Young Adult)	OWNED FAITH (Young Adult- Adult . . . if at all)
COMMUNAL/RELIGIOUS CHARACTERISTICS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationship to Institution: Basic Attitude • Parallel Image from Early Church • Predominant Ministerial Concern 	Extended family; security of belonging Conception Gradual movement from	Participation in a caring community; youth group Development in womb "belonging to" the church to	Desire for independence; disinterest/alienation (often feigned) Labor/birth "becoming the church" to	Free, mature acceptance of the tradition; independent but committed New life "being church"
FAITH/SPIRITUALITY CHARACTERISTICS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Image of God • Prominent Prayer Style • Fundamental Spiritual Challenge: Loneliness, Fear of Abandonment 	Loving Parent Observer of the prayer of others; imitation & memorization Fears loss of parent	Jesus as friend Participant in communal prayer; Christocentric Fears rejection by peers	Jesus as model of fully human person "Our Father" in depth; meditation Fears marital/professional failure	"Abba" → Spirit ("Sacred Mystery") Immersion in Mystery; contemplation Loneliness/autonomy embraced: "Into your hands . . ."
CHARACTERISTICS OF CHRISTIAN IDENTITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Characteristic • Wisdom of the Church (Creed) • Worship (Cult) • Works (Code) 	Sense of belonging rooted in identification with parents "Facts" memorized but not understood; literal & concrete Sense of the sacred; belong by "doing it OK" Follow the rules; reward & punishment	Belonging rooted in participation in community Growing comprehension as abstract thought emerges Growing appreciation of symbol/ritual; boredom Behavior centered in group; do what peers expect	Becoming by way of personal appropriation/ conversion Basic beliefs questioned in desire for personal truth Worship sometimes viewed as "old"; need for creativity Time of testing; searching for personal moral code	Being through commitment to discipleship/apostleship Acceptance of <i>kerygma</i> ; critical and selective Full participation rooted in commitment Mature decision-making; engagement in service