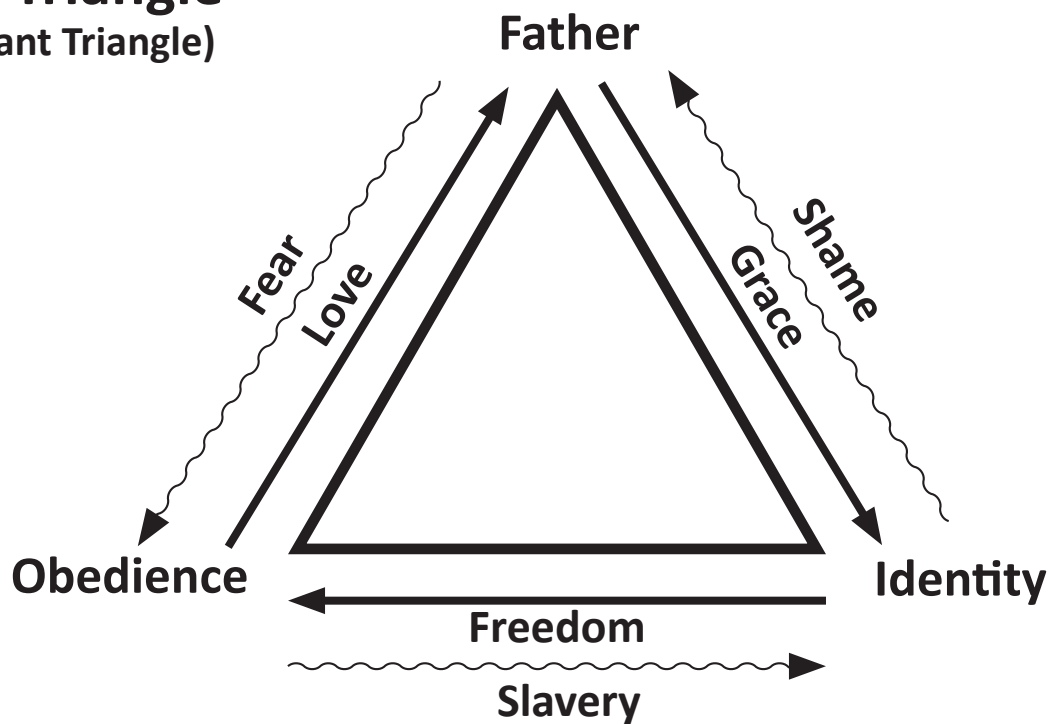


# Identity Triangle

(aka Covenant Triangle)



**Main Scripture:** Romans 8:14-17, Ephesians 1:4-5

**Supporting Scriptures:** Matthew 3:16-17; John 5:19-20;

## Shape Teaching:

1. Have someone read Romans 8:14-17 and Ephesians 1:4-5.
2. With the Triangle drawn, mention how we often fall into an unhealthy pattern of relating to the Father. Moving counter-clockwise, many Christ-followers try to obey God out of **fear**. We want to please God by doing the very best to live a good life.
3. What this creates is a false narrative of how God is pleased. We try to obey our way into our identity. When we do this, we actually place ourselves in bondage and **slavery**. We take on the heavy burden of a performance-based approach to God.
4. This leads to **shame** as we approach the Father because we know our failures very well. We are ashamed at our sin, and condemnation speaks loudly to us. This is living FOR favor.
5. The Christian life is the exact opposite. The first scene we have of Jesus as an adult is His baptism (Matthew 3:16-17). When John the Baptist brings Jesus out of the water, the Father speaks words of identity over Him: “this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.” It’s important to note that Jesus had not yet accomplished anything. This happened before He was launched into ministry. From that point on, we find Jesus referring often to His identity as the Son and that His works and words flow directly from the Father (John 5:19-20).
6. Moving clockwise on the triangle, mention the Father has initiated relationship with us and by His **grace** He has poured out His goodness upon us. He has adopted us into His family.
7. This new identity as sons and daughters is a gift. It can’t be earned. He has lavished this grace upon us and He takes delight in us.
8. This new identity prompts a desire to obey the Father. We don’t obey because we are trying to please Him. We are pleasing to Him! That is made possible by the amazing grace He has poured out on us. It’s an expression of our new **freedom** in Jesus. We are free from the hopeless attempts of trying to earn God’s pleasure.
9. Obedience is now a response. It is a response of **love** and worship to a Heavenly Dad who initiated a friendship with us and gave us a new identity and future. We are now living FROM favor not FOR favor.
10. Reference the Identity questions in the Huddle Leader Manual to help determine which direction you are going around the triangle.