I am a mother, sister, daughter, and friend. I am a therapist, an encourager, a leader in singles ministry and a writer. I’ve been deemed a loser, stupid, ugly and worthless. I’m a high school dropout, an ex-smoker, ex-drinker, and ex- a lot of other things. I’m a combination of all my successes and failures; but at the end of the day none of those things (good or bad) have the power to fully define me. My true identity, your true identity is found only in Jesus.

I was 36 years old when Jesus radically invaded my life. In an instant He infused me with a hope and joy I had never experienced. Prior to Jesus I spent most of my adult life looking for ways to relieve, mask or avoid my pain. My identity was deeply rooted in false labels that I wore willingly. Through Christ I have been restored to my original worth. It took a lot of sanding, scrapping, painting and sealing but today I walk in my true identity.

Through prayer and being in His word God has given me insight into the root of so many of the issues we face today. The root is not knowing, believing or living out our identity in Christ. Ecclesiastes 3:11 says "He has made everything beautiful in its time. *Also He has put eternity in their hearts*, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end". In every human heart God has purposely placed the desire for eternity (i.e. more than this world). However, in our carnal minds we mistake this as a longing for more drugs, sex, material items, money, status, prestige, etc. As we run towards *more* we get further and further away from who God designed us to be...image bearers.

God chose you. He personally hand selected you to be His. He pulled you out of the crowd and stamped you with His seal. He loves and cherishes you in ways I can't even find words for. He has healed and restored you so that you can now go out and do the same for others. He has renewed your mind so that you can claim your identity as sons and daughters of the King. He has placed eternity in your heart so that you would never call this world home. He sits with you in your pain and collects every fallen tear so that one day He can repay you with songs of joy. He longs to share His mysteries with you as you sit at His feet. Claim your crown today and even on days when it's crooked wear it proudly knowing that you are holy, righteous and redeemed in His eyes.

**BIO** – Michelle wears an array of hats on any given day but her favorite is Daughter of the King. She lives in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina where she works as a Child and Family Therapist. She has been a single mother for 18 years and loves to watch God take your most difficult struggles and transform them in to passionate purpose. Today Michelle has joyfully embraced her passion to speak truth into the lives of others and assist them in finding and living out their true identity in Christ. She believes that in order to do that we need to uncover the lies and labels, identity the root and replace it with God’s truth.