

# Salvation & Your Identity in Christ!

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## Identity and Salvation Foundations

John 3

*<sup>3</sup> There was a man from the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> This man came to him at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could perform these signs you do unless God were with him."*

*<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

*<sup>4</sup> "How can anyone be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked him. "Can he enter his mother's womb a second time and be born?"*

*<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again. <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."*

*<sup>9</sup> "How can these things be?" asked Nicodemus...*

*<sup>16</sup> For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> Anyone who believes in him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God. (John 3:1-9, 16-18 CSB)*

- Nicodemus - one confused dude
- Just like Nicodemus, many have a poor understanding of salvation & identity

Common picture of identity: through one's job or calling; "Who are you?" "I'm drummer!"

Your revelation of your identity:

- empowers you to share the gospel, build the Kingdom
- OR
- holds you in a mindset of *I'm no good I'll never be good enough and I deserve every bad thing that happens to me.* -> no defense when bad things happen

To be "In Christ": given their life to Jesus;

- if you are not in Christ; listen to the Holy Spirit speaking to you. Please don't ignore Him!

## Original Sin – Genesis

In Genesis 1, God created man

- Gave man dominion over the Earth ("sovereignty" or "control")
- Three part being: Spirit (connection with Creator God), Soul (mind, will, emotions), Body
- Genesis 3, Adam and Eve tempted by the devil, disobeyed God
- By obeying the serpent (satan) and disobeying God's command, transferred dominion over the earth from them to the devil

Romans 5:12

*"...sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned."*( Romans 5:12 ESV)

Ephesians 2:1-3

*And you were dead in your trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient. <sup>3</sup> We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also. (Eph 2:1-3 CSB)*

*"You were dead in your sins..."*

- Initial sin broke the connection between the Spirit of God and the spirit of man
- Your spirit is dead to God because of Adam's disobedience
- Broken Spirit-connection continues to contaminate every generation

Everyone commits sin and is less than perfect in the eyes of God:

*"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"*(Romans 3:23 NKJV)

*"Seems obvious that God made man without sin originally, but all men born of Adam sin; therefore the guilt of Adam's sin causes us to have a sinful nature that must have been inherited. I never asked to be born a sinner but I was. So I must have inherited this curse from someone else. This is original sin. Both the guilt of Adam's sin and the need for punishment for that sin came upon me."*

### **Sin vs Sin Nature: Different**

Original sin instills in every person a sin nature -> result of that broken spirit connection

- Sin is the action of doing or thinking something you shouldn't
- Sin is missing the mark
- Natural human condition
- Miss God's mark for righteousness no matter how good, kind, or charitable
- The act of sin vs sin nature

Ephesians 2:3

*"The corruption that was in us from birth was expressed through the deeds and desires of our self-life. We lived by whatever natural cravings and thoughts our minds dictated, living as rebellious children subject to God's wrath like everyone else."* (Ephesians 2:3 TPT)  
- NKJV says, we *"were by nature children of wrath"*

### **OT Covenant Vs NT Covenant**

God gave Moses the Ten Commandments and established the Old Covenant law

Leviticus 17:11

*<sup>11</sup> For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'*  
(Leviticus 17:11 NKJV)

- Every year you must present sacrifices to cover(atone for) your sin
- Last year's sacrifice is no longer valid. [think of your car registration]
- The old law proved that no one was good enough

Then the Son of God, Jesus

- Came to earth as a Man, lived a sin-less life
- Religious crowd killed Him by hanging Him on a Cross
- The third day, Jesus rose from the grave

Romans 6:23 declares,

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*  
(Romans 6:23 NKJV)

The Blood of Jesus sealed the New Covenant between Man and God

One sacrifice covered all sin, past, present, and future, and provided a way back to God:

Hebrews 9:11-15

*<sup>11</sup> But Christ has appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come. In the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands (that is, not of this creation), <sup>12</sup> he entered the most holy place once for all time, not by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup> For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a young cow, sprinkling those who are defiled, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, <sup>14</sup> how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works so that we can serve the living God?  
<sup>15</sup> Therefore, he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called might receive the promise of the eternal inheritance, because a death has taken place for redemption from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. (Heb 9:11-15)*

Hebrews 9:24-26

*<sup>24</sup> For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with hands (only a model of the true one) but into heaven itself, so that he might now appear in the presence of God for us. <sup>25</sup> He did not do this to offer himself many times, as the high priest enters the sanctuary yearly with the blood of another.<sup>26</sup> Otherwise, he would have had to suffer many times since the foundation of the world. But now he has appeared one time, at the end of the ages, for the removal of sin by the sacrifice of himself. (Heb 9:24-26)*

The sacrifice of One Jesus, One Time, is the eternal atonement for the Sin of mankind

- OT sacrifices couldn't remove sin but for a year
- The atonement destroyed the power of sin; a pathway to receive a new spirit

## The Prodigal Son

Many have a poor concept of God/salvation

- Jesus with a big stick -> not God's character!
- Prodigal son demonstrates God's view of you!
  - The father represents Father God
  - How does He respond to the returning son?
  - Runs with open arms to embrace the one who was lost!
  - *Reckless Love!*

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16 NKJV)*

*For God so loved YOU that he gave his one and only Son, that when you believe in him, YOU shall not perish but have eternal life. (paraphrase)*

## Salvation: Our Part

Jesus paid the price not only for our sin, our healing, our deliverance, our provision

- We like to say that Jesus did it all. Salvation is by God's grace through faith.
- But we DO have a part to play; the jailor in Acts 16, "*What must I do to be saved?*"

TWO THINGS we must do to be saved: Acts 20:21

- Confess our sin and turn to God in repentance
- We must have FAITH in the Lord Jesus

## Sin Requires Repentance

To repent is to change our minds; renounce and turn toward God

- Reject former behavior and turn 180\* to walk with the Lord
- Salvation repentance: I renounce my sin and my inherited sin-nature and choose to walk with Jesus

## Faith in Jesus

FAITH dictionary definition, "*complete trust or confidence, especially without logical proof.*"

Hebrews 11:1 calls faith, "*the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*"

- A knowing that something is true even when you have no obvious proof

Faith that Jesus is the Son of God; and that He died and rose again

- John 14:6, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*"
- Repentance and faith in Jesus brings us under the Blood of Jesus

## Sons And Daughters

John 1:12

*But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, (John 1:12)*

2 Corinthians 5:17

*<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV)*

Ephesians 2:1

*And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, (Ephesians 2:1 NKJV)*

You are a new creation in Christ

- Your SPIRIT has been BORN AGAIN
- Connection of your spirit to the Spirit of God restored!
- Now Sons and Daughters of Christ!
- Mistakes no longer define me or identify my nature – I remain a child of God
- I can repent, turn from my sin and move on
- I WAS a sinner; now I am a saint
- I am no longer subject to the old covenant law
- Egg -> chicken... there's no going back

## **Old vs New Covenant**

Keith Green chorus: "Create in me a clean heart, Oh God. And renew a right Spirit within me..."

- The cry of David's prayer, "refresh me Holy Spirit!" Yes!

From Psalm 51; King David lamenting his illicit affair with Bathsheba, and his murder of Uriah:

*"Blot out my transgressions.*

*<sup>2</sup> Wash me from my iniquity,  
cleanse me from my sin.*

*<sup>3</sup> my sin is always before me.*

*<sup>4</sup> I've done this evil in Your sight—  
in sin my mother conceived me.*

*<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

*Create in me a clean heart,  
renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

*<sup>11</sup> Don't cast me away from Your presence,  
And don't take Your Holy Spirit from me.*

*<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,*

Written under the heavy weight of the OT Law!

- Last year's sacrifice is no longer valid
- David was deeply separated from God!

When we repent and accept Jesus as Lord, we no longer live under that weight!

- No longer subject to the unattainable Old Covenant
- When we are born again, we live under a New Covenant

Ephesians 2:19-20, 22

*"So, you are not foreigners or guests, but rather you are the children of the city of the holy ones, with all the rights as family members of the household of God. You are rising like the perfectly fitted stones of the temple; and your lives have been built up together upon the foundation laid by the apostles and prophets, and best of all, you are connected to the Head Cornerstone of the building, the Anointed One, Jesus Christ himself! This means that God is transforming each one of you into the Holy of Holies, his dwelling place, through the power of the Holy Spirit living in you!" (Ephesians 2:19-20, 22 TPT)*

Colossians 2:12-13

*"For we've been buried with him into his death. Our "baptism into death" also means we were raised with him when we believed in God's resurrection power, the power that raised him from death's realm. This "realm of death" describes our former state, for we were held in sin's grasp. But now, we've been resurrected out of that "realm of death" never to return, for we are forever alive and forgiven of all our sins!"*

*"He canceled out every legal violation we had on our record and the old arrest warrant that stood to indict us. He erased it all—our sins, our stained soul—he deleted it all and they cannot be retrieved! Everything we once were in Adam has been placed onto his cross and nailed permanently there as a public display of cancellation." (Colossians 2:12-14 TPT)*

## **Sons And Daughters – What The Father Sees**

Ephesians 2:5-6

*"Even when we were dead and doomed in our many sins, he united us into the very life of Christ and saved us by his wonderful grace! He raised us up with Christ the exalted One, and we ascended with him into the glorious perfection and authority of the heavenly realm, for we are now co-seated as one with Christ!" (Ephesians 2:5-6 TPT)*

God sees Jesus in us:

2 Corinthians 5:21: *"He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."* (CSB)

Romans 8:1: *"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"*

1 John 4:17

*By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. (NASB)*

God's nature does not allow sin in His presence

- Can an ungodly vine be grafted into a Godly Branch?
- Like grafting a sahuaro arm onto a Maple tree!
- God sees His saved children through Jesus: Saints; Sons and Daughters
- New Creations in Christ

Measurement of sin is against the Law

- The truly born-again Christian is a new creation free from the law
- Sin cannot be calculated unless one resurrects the old law to measure it!

## Bad Behavior

Wrong extremes of understanding sin

- One side: *"gotta get saved all over every Sunday cause I lost my salvation"*
- Other side: *"I'm so free in Christ that I can do anything! It's all under the Blood!"*

Christians are called to holy sin-free lives

- Habitual ongoing sin not acceptable – deal with it!
- None of us are perfect—we do make mistakes -> confess and repent
- Our slip-ups do not return us to our pre-Christ sin-nature
- The chicken does not revert to an egg

Colossians 3:7-8

*"Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. <sup>6</sup> For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, <sup>7</sup> and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. <sup>8</sup> But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth."* (Colossians 3:7-8 NASB)

How you *"once walked"*

- Your BEHAVIOR needs to change to submit to your spirit and to God
- Your identity has already changed
- Look at yourself through God's eyes -> behavior, habits that need to change

The battle of the mind

- Your flesh, *"Ah, man! I really want to [\_\_\_\_\_]."*
- Demon in your ear, *"Ah, man, you really should go [\_\_\_\_\_]."*
- Your SPIRIT will not tell you to do ungodly things....

2 Corinthians 3-5

*<sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.<sup>5</sup> We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, (2 Corinthians 3-5 ESV)*

*"Arguments and lofty opinions raised against God"*

- Your mind, demons, other people
- Other people—remove the influence of certain folks
- Your mind and the devil: *"take every thought captive to obey Christ"*

Romans 12:1-2

*Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you ... to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.* (Romans 12:1-2 CSB)

- "renew your mind..." "take every thought captive..." think on good ..."

The power of God is in you to take every thought captive

Andrew Womack:

*"I'm not the source of God's power, but I am plugged into the source and the power of God flows through me."*

[Andrew Womack <https://share.google/XBJY07UHxgczgFkfI>]

## **Conclusion**

Ephesians 3:16-19

*"And I pray that he would unveil within you the unlimited riches of his glory and favor until supernatural strength floods your innermost being with his divine might and explosive power. Then, by constantly using your faith, the life of Christ will be released deep inside you, and the resting place of his love will become the very source and root of your life. Then you will be empowered to discover what every holy one experiences—the great magnitude of the astonishing love of Christ in all its dimensions. How deeply intimate and far-reaching is his love! How enduring and inclusive it is! Endless love beyond measurement that transcends our understanding—this extravagant love pours into you until you are filled to overflowing with the fullness of God!"* (Ephesians 3:16-19 TPT)

Ephesians 4:24

*"...be transformed as you embrace the glorious Christ-within as your new life and live in union with him! For God has re-created you all over again in his perfect righteousness, and you now belong to him in the realm of true holiness."* (Ephesians 4:24 TPT)

"For God has re-created you..."