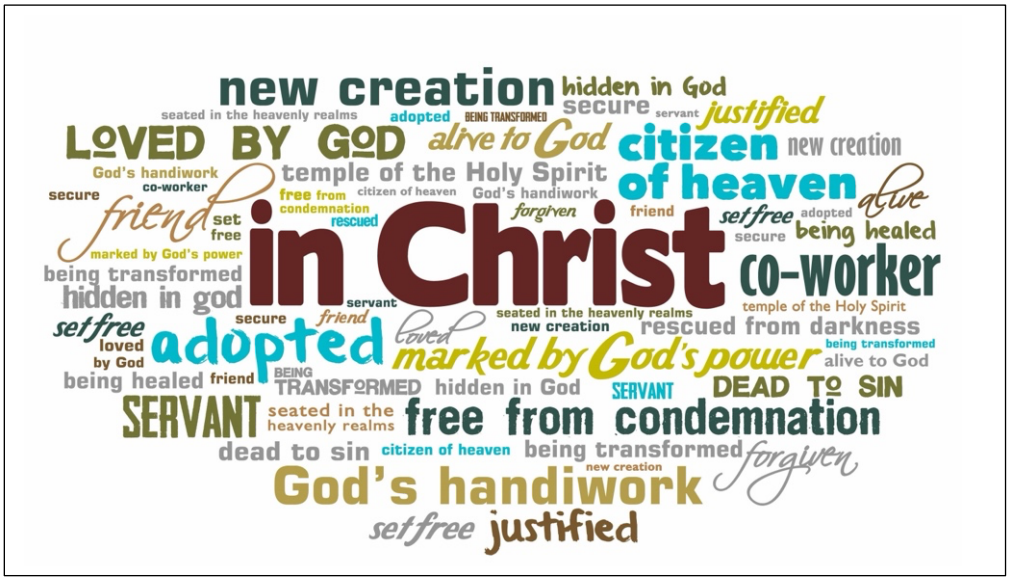
Series: Good, Better, Best! October 2, 2026

Session #11 – Your New Identity In Christ!



2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT) [17] This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

John 3:3 (NLT) [3] Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

Romans 8:15 (NLT) [15] So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father."

What's Your Identity?

As we go through life we are trying to discover, decide, establish, and declare who we are!

That identity comes from our history, ability, achievements, career, family, hobbies, failures, mistakes, likes, dislikes, and choices, social connections, and friends.

1. Do You See Yourself As God See's You, Or Are You Listening To The Wrong Voice?

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT) [21] For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

James 1:18 (NLT) [18] He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.

Hebrews 8:12 (NLT) [12] And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."

Satan Lies

John 8:44b (NLT) …He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Our own thoughts on our identity can be ruled by wrong ideas, wrong words, wrong assumptions, abuse, fear, perspectives we set up to protect ourselves, mistakes, addictions, bad habits, failures, mistakes, etc. Satan helps us thing wrongly all the time. He is a liar and love destruction.

2. Christ Changes Our Identity At Our Spiritual Birth!

John 3:3 (NLT) [3] Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

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Some of the best examples of God transforming people involve dramatic shifts from hostility, greed, or doubt to deep faith and purposeful leadership.

The Apostle Paul (Saul) (Acts Ch 9; 22; 26)

- **The Change:** From a fierce persecutor of early Christians into one of history's most influential Christian missionaries and writers.
- **The Story:** Saul actively voted for and promoted the punishment and death of believers. While traveling to Damascus, he experienced a blinding encounter with Jesus. His entire life's mission reversed, turning his religious zeal into a ministry of grace.

Zacchaeus (Luke 19)

- **The Change:** From a corrupt, hated chief tax collector into a repentant and generous follower of Jesus.
- **The Story:** Zacchaeus grew rich by cheating his own people on behalf of the Roman government. After Jesus chose to stay at his house, Zacchaeus felt profound inner conviction, publicly promising to give half of his possessions to the poor and repay anyone he cheated fourfold.

Moses (Transformed Exodus 2-4)

- **The Change:** From an insecure, hot-tempered fugitive and murderer into a courageous leader of a nation.
- **The Story:** Moses fled Egypt after killing an Egyptian slave driver. Decades later, God met him through a burning bush, transforming his stuttering speech and self-doubt into the strength required to confront Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of slavery.

Peter

- **The Change:** From an impulsive, fearful disowner of Christ into a foundational leader of the early church.
- **The Story:** Despite walking closely with Jesus, Peter publicly denied knowing Him three times out of fear during Jesus' trial. Following the resurrection, he was completely restored and empowered to preach boldly at Pentecost.

Scripture Shows Christians Transformed

Ephesians 4:22–24 (NLT) [22] throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. [23] Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. [24] Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

Romans 6:6–8 (NLT) [6] We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. [7] For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. [8] And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him.

Romans 12:1–2 (NLT) ***A Living Sacrifice to God*** And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. [2] Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let

God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Galatians 2:20 (NLT) [20] My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Ephesians 2:4–10 (NLT) [4] But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, [5] that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) [6] For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. [7] So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

[8] God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. [9] Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. [10] For we are God's masterpiece. He has **created us anew in Christ Jesus**, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

John 1:12 (NLT) [12] But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

1 Peter 2:9 (NLT) [9] But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

3. Our True Identity Is Defined by God's View of Us, Not Our Own

Identity in Christ means that a believer's true worth, security, and purpose come from God's grace and our spiritual union with Jesus, rather than from human achievements, failures, or cultural labels!

Core Meaning

- **Received, Not Achieved:** Identity is a gift given by God through faith, not something earned through personal performance.
- **Union with Christ:** Believers are spiritually united with Jesus in His death and resurrection, making us a "new creation".
- **Shifting Focus:** Self-reliance and worldly labels (like career, social status, or mistakes) are replaced by how God defines a person.

Key Characteristics

- **A Child of God:** we are adopted into God's family and treated as beloved sons and daughters.
- **Forgiven and Cleaned:** Past wrongs and sins no longer define the person; they are viewed as fully forgiven and righteous.
- **Chosen and Secure:** Self-worth is anchored in an unchanging God rather than unstable feelings or external crises, providing deep emotional stability.

Practical Impact

- **Freedom from Approval:** Believers do not need to chase human validation or fear rejection because they already possess total acceptance from God.
- **Love for Others:** Secure in their own value, Christians are empowered to serve, forgive, and care for others selflessly.

"Identity in Christ" refers to the truth that a person's core identity, worth, and purpose are permanently redefined the moment you place your faith in Jesus. Instead of being defined by past mistakes, worldly achievements, or human flaws, we are defined by who God says we are.
This shift fundamentally changes our internal reality and how we interact with the world.

Side-by-Side Comparison

Life Before/Outside of Christ	Life In Christ (The Change)
Condemned and Guilty: Separated from God by sin; carrying the weight and shame of past failures.	**Forgiven and Justified:** Completely cleared of all guilt. God no longer counts past mistakes against you.
Slave to Sin: Trapped in old habits, toxic mindsets, and destructive patterns that feel impossible to break.	**Free and Transformed:** Empowered by the Holy Spirit to break old chains and choose a new, healthy way of living.
Spiritual Orphan: Living isolated, trying to earn love, and feeling unseen or unprotected by a higher power.	**Adopted Child of God:** Placed securely into God's family. You have direct access to Him as a loving, protective Father.
Driven by Performance: Self-worth fluctuates based on career success, relationship status, financial standing, or human approval.	**Secured by Grace:** Worth is unshakeable and infinite because it is based on Christ's performance, not your own.
Fearful and Anxious: Anxious about the future, death, judgment, and whether you are "good enough."	**Peaceful and Secure:** Filled with an eternal peace, knowing your eternity is secure and God works all things for your good.
Purposeless or Self-Centered: Living for temporary pleasure, survival, or building your own earthly kingdom.	**Called and Purposeful:** Hand-selected to be an ambassador for good, with a unique, eternal mission to love and serve others.

ACTION ITEMS:

Become a Christian

Luke 24:47 (NLT) [47] It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.'
John 3:16 (NLT) [16] "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

Sincerely Pray This Prayer and Turn From Sin!

"Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness.
I believe that You died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead.
Right now, I turn from my sins and trust You as my Savior and Lord.
Take control of my life and help me to live for You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

How Do We Really Realize Our Identity In Christ & Change:

A. Identify and eliminate Satan's lies to you about you and wrong thoughts!
B. Believe God's Promises & Perspective!
C. Live a Life of Relationship With God Daily!