

# Who Are You? Discovering Our Identity in Christ

In our recent gathering at NCAC, we delved into a compelling question that's as ancient as it is personal: "Who are you?" This question isn't just about names or titles but about our true identity as seen through the lens of faith. It's an inquiry that pushes us to understand not only who we are today but also who we are becoming in Christ.

## The Hebrews, Israelites, and Jews: Our Spiritual Heritage

The Bible introduces us to various titles that God's people have held throughout history—Hebrews, Israelites, and Jews. Each of these names tells a story. As Hebrews, Abraham and his descendants were known as people from "beyond," signaling their separation from worldly norms due to their divine calling (Genesis 14:12). As Israelites, they became a people bound by the covenant with God, shaped by His laws and promises (Exodus 9:5-7). Lastly, as Jews, especially after the split into Judah and Israel, they represented the preservation of faith and adherence to covenant promises despite trials (2 Kings 16:5-6).

For us in Chillicothe, these stories are more than history lessons—they're markers of our spiritual identity. Like the Hebrews, we are pilgrims and strangers in this world (1 Peter 2:11-12), called to live by faith. As modern-day Israelites, we are in a covenant relationship with God, guided by His commandments which, as Jesus taught, are fulfilled in love (John 14:15). Finally, as spiritual Jews, heirs to the promise, we hold fast to the hope of a Messiah who has come and is to come again.

## Becoming a Christian: Embracing Our Full Identity

In Acts 11:26, we see the disciples first called Christians at Antioch. This title extends beyond titles and heritage and speaks directly to our deepest identity as those who follow and walk with Christ. It signifies a personal transformation and a communal belonging that transcend cultural and religious boundaries.

The title "Christian" is more than a label; it's a living expression of our faith. It's a call to embody the characteristics of Christ—compassion, humility, and righteousness—in our everyday lives. When Paul writes about being grafted into the family of God (Romans 4), he's echoing an invitation for us to partake in this divine legacy and live it out vibrantly.

## Living Our Identity: Practical Steps Forward

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Living as a Christian in Chillicothe means more than attending services; it involves actively participating in the community of believers and extending Christ's love beyond our church walls. Here's how we can live out this identity:

1. **Embrace Your Spiritual Journey:** Acknowledge and celebrate your unique path as a person of promise. Whether you are just starting your faith journey or a mature believer, recognize that each phase is significant. Philippians 1:6 reminds us that God is committed to completing the good work He began in us.

2. **Engage in Covenant Living:** Practically live out your covenant relationship with God through daily spiritual disciplines such as prayer, Bible reading, and gathering with fellow believers. Hebrews 10:24-25 urges us not to forsake assembling together but to encourage one another toward love and good deeds.

3. **Express Faith and Hope:** Be a beacon of faith and hope within our community. Share the joy of your salvation and the hope of Christ's return with others. 1 Peter 3:15 encourages us to always be prepared to give a reason for the hope that we have, doing so with gentleness and respect.

## Conclusion: Your Call to Action

As we look to deepen our understanding and practice of our Christian identity, let's ask ourselves: What name or identity am I truly living by? Are we fully embracing our heritage as Hebrews, Israelites, Jews, and now Christians? We invite you to reflect on these questions, explore your spiritual identity, and share this message with others.

Join us at NCAC as we continue this journey of faith together. Participate in our services, engage with our community, and witness what God is doing in Chillicothe. By living out our calling, we not only honor those who came before us but also pave the way for future generations to experience God's love and truth.

Let us live as true Christians, reflecting God's light in every corner of our lives and encouraging others on their path. Remember, we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us (Romans 8:37). Share this message and invite others to discover their own identity in Christ. Together, let's move forward as one people, united under the banner of Jesus Christ, the fullness of God.