

The Identity Crisis with Salvation

Romans 6:1-2 (NLT) Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?

Romans 6:3-4 (NLT) Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

I. Old Nature

Ephesians 2:1-3 (NKJV) And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were **by nature** children of wrath, just as the others.

Romans 7:5 (NLT) When we were **controlled by our old nature**, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death.

II. The new Nature

Romans 6:4 (NLT) For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

****Romans 6:19 (NKJV)** I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

2 Peter 1:2-4 (NKJV) Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

When we get saved we receive a new Nature in us, a Divine Nature! We are not just called children of God we are Children of God!

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

III. Why is living righteously so hard.

Romans 7:18-19 (AMP) For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot perform it. [I have the intention and urge to do what is right, but no power to carry it out.] For I fail to practice the good deeds I desire to do, but the evil deeds that I do not desire to do are what I am [ever] doing.

Romans 7:24-25 (AMP) O unhappy and pitiable and wretched man that I am! Who will release and deliver me from [the shackles of] this body of death? O thank God! [He will!] through Jesus Christ (the Anointed One) our Lord!

You first must understand you have been delivered!

****Colossians 3:1-11 (NLT)** Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand.

Colossians 3:7-8 (NLT) You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language.

Colossians 3:9-10 (NLT) Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.

Colossians 3:12 (NLT) Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Romans 6:12 (NLT) Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires.

How can Paul make a statement like this? Because he understood we have a NEW DIVINE NATURE!

2 Peter 1:2-4 (NKJV) Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

So most do not know they have been given a New Nature...thus creating an Identity Crises! We don't know who we are in Christ!

IV. How do I do this!

1. Acknowledge who you are! Believe it!

John 1:12 (NKJV) But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

Galatians 4:6-7 (NKJV) And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Romans 8:16 (NKJV) The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

2. Call on the help of the Holy Spirit!

John 16:7-8 (NKJV) Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

John 14:16 (NKJV) And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—

John 14:26 (NKJV) But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

3. No dedication, no discipline, no endurance!

Matthew 24:12 (NKJV) And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

Hebrews 10:35-36 (NKJV) Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

Love and Endurance!

****1 Corinthians 13:7 (NKJV)** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

We have based love on feeling not commitment!

Mark 4:16-17 (NKJV) These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble.

Love is not a goose bumpy feeling Love is dedication, discipline, commitment and endurance!

*****My wife loves me with all her heart but trust me she does not get weak in knees when I walk in the room...**

****1 Corinthians 13:7 (NKJV)** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

God did not give up on us! The Love that He had for us was enduring.

Romans 5:8 (NKJV) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Corinthians 13:13 (NLT) Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.