
Citizens of Heaven in Earthly Tents

The Soil

*Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God,
we do not lose heart. 2 But we have renounced
disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to
practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but
by the open statement of the truth we would
commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in
the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled,
it is veiled to those who are perishing.*

4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts...

*to give the light of the knowledge of the glory
of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we
have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that
the surpassing power belongs to God and not
to us. 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not
crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair;
9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down,
but not destroyed;*

10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our bodies. 11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So death is at work in us, but life in you. 13 Since we have the same spirit of faith according to...

what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak, 14 knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. 15 For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

*16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is
wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day
by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is
preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond
all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that
are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the
things that are seen are transient, but the things
that are unseen are eternal.*

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, 3 if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. 4 For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—

not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. 6 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.

8 Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. 12 We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart.

13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. 14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Soil is our **underlying**
attitudes, beliefs, and values.

Today's Roadmap

- What IS identity?
 - What is our identity pre-salvation?
 - What is our identity in Christ?
 - What does that mean for us?
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What even IS identity?

- Dictionary definition: “the fact of being who or what a person or thing is”

What even IS identity?

- Identity had always been experienced outside-in as a consequence of the rigid rules of nature and of the society around you
 - Technology, and the notion of human dignity, disturbed those “rules”
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What even IS identity?

- Rousseau >>> The Romantics >>> Marx, Nietzsche, Freud >>> Modern “psychological man”

What even IS identity?

- The idea, then, is that your inner feelings are your truest self. And if that is true, you require that society affirm those feelings for you to feel whole. Further, institutions that used to define identity are now where we “perform” identity
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What even IS identity?

- So, our definition of identity is thus:
 - “The sense of self based on inner feelings and desires that is then outwardly expressed”

Purpose is derived from identity.
What we do is a natural outgrowth
of who we see ourselves to be.

What even IS identity?

- Is “identity” a biblical concept? Either...
 - God always intended us to “discover” this new psychological reality
 - Or, he is simply able to use it in a way that meets us where we are at
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Our identity pre-salvation

- Children of wrath
 - Sons of disobedience
 - Dead in our trespasses
 - Sons of darkness
 - Slaves to sin
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Our identity in Christ

- Made in the image of God
 - Made righteous
 - Sons and daughters of God
 - Alive in Christ
 - Slaves of righteousness
 - Citizens of heaven
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Our identity in Christ

- Ambassadors of Christ
 - Ministers of reconciliation
 - Chosen by God
 - Saints (holy ones)
 - New creation
 - Royal priests
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Our identity in Christ

- A holy nation
 - God's special possession
 - Temple/dwelling place of the Holy Spirit
 - Friends of God
 - Holy and blameless and above reproach
 - Partakers of the divine nature
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Our identity in Christ

- Put off the old and put on the new
 - “Thank you” prayers help us receive
 - Our identity in Christ cultivates fertile soil that allows us to have deep roots and produce healthy fruits
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Practice in discovering our identity in Christ: 2 Cor 4-5

- Where do you see “identity” statements?

Response

- God, are there any false identities that I'm believing about myself that you want to shed?
 - God, what is the new identity you want to highlight to me right now?
 - “Thank you God that you say that my new identity is _____”
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