

Our Identity in Christ

What is it? Why is it important?

John 15:5 *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

Intro – Spoke at the Retreat on this subject and some it seemed like another language. I understand if that is the case for you because I spent 12 hours at a Sound Technician Seminar.

Why this is important:

1. Helps you understand who you are and what you're living for: if not for Christ, not worth your life.

Teens and adults identity crisis – How do they look?

2*Identification grants you access to what you would otherwise be denied.

ID – Grants access to a country, to a movie, to drive: Spiritually it is the same. The spiritual truths in Bible that we begin to identify ourselves by begin to open the door to things we would have never known.

3 Steps to finding our true identity in Christ

I. **Realize** who you are...your true identity

WHO ARE YOU? a. _____ b. _____

Could talk about: Self-perception, or self-esteem, or usefulness, but not today.

Focus on identifying ourselves by what we do or what we love.

Matt 7:20 *"You will recognize them by their fruits."*

Matt 6:21 *"For where you treasure is, there you heart will be also."* ESV

What about stamping the title "I'm a Christian" –

Difference between Professing vs. Possessing – **Luke 8:4-8** – Path, rocks, weeds, fertile

Trans: Many times in life we will need to reshape our identity, so the next step is to:

II. **Renew** our mind with the Word of God

We act out of what we believe about ourselves or God, so at times our minds need renewing. What is this?

Romans 12:2 *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."* ESV

Paul writes this exact phrase somewhere else, but he inserts another word to further explain this.

Eph 4:22-24 *"Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit [NIV – attitude] of your minds..."* ESV

We not only have a mind, but a mindset. Not merely a view, but a viewpoint or an attitude, slant, or demeanor.

-If you long for true transformation from the inside out,

to be free from duty-driven Christianity,

to offer yourself as a living sacrifice to God,

and to find your true identity in God...

Then commit yourself to the renewal of your mind through the reading of Scripture.

True transformation begins in our minds...

-Everyone identity can be restored through truth replacing lies. This is an example of that.

ILL: Blood Diamond – Dia lives in Sierra Leon, kidnapped, brainwashed, murdered, father rescues him...

Titus 3:5 *"He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."* NIV

We find renewal by the Spirit of God.

Therefore, avoiding all worldly lifestyles doesn't mean inside-out transformation.

For example, Works of the flesh are not replaced by works of the law BUT Fruit of the Spirit Gal 5:19-22

Our identity needs to be understood from a Bible perspective and grown by the Holy Spirit's guidance through reading the Word.

III. Remain connected

Go back to the beginning. Everything we are as Christians revolves around Christ.

John 15:5 *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

We might find resistance to remaining connected. We see it here:

Matt 19:20-26 – Rich young ruler – had a hindrance – We have hindrances that can be in many different forms. Treasures, skewed identities, misconceptions about God, etc...but we can overcome!

“With _____ this is impossible, but with _____ all things are possible.” Matt 19:26

Closing: Let's turn to God to pray this morning for help in realizing our identity, renewing our minds through the words of Scripture and illumination of the Holy Spirit, and Remaining connected to Him.

Because of Christ: Knowing your true identity in Jesus

I am...

John 1:12 I am God's child (Galatians 3:26)

Romans 5:1 I have been justified.

I Corinthians 6:17 I am united with the Lord, and I am one with Him in spirit.

I Corinthians 12:27 I am a member of Christ's body.

Ephesians 1:3-8 I have been chosen by God and adopted as His child.

Colossians 2:9-10 I am complete in Christ.

Romans 8:1 I am free from condemnation.

Romans 8:35-39 I am loved by God.

II Corinthians 1:21-22 I am established, anointed and sealed by God.

Colossians 3:1-4 I am hidden with Christ in God.

Philippians 1:6 I am confident God will complete what He began in me.

Philippians 3:20 I am a citizen of heaven.

I John 5:18 I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.

I Corinthians 3:16 I am God's temple.

Ephesians 2:6 I am alive because of God's rich love for me.

2 Corinthians 5:17 I am new in Christ

Galatians 4:6-7, Romans 8:17 I am an heir with the Father and a joint heir with Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:21 I am the righteousness of God because of Christ.

Romans 6:22 I am enslaved to God.

1 Peter 2:9 I am a chosen generation, a royal priest hood, a holy nation.

1 Peter 2:11 I am an alien and a stranger to this world.

Rom 8:1 I am free from condemnation

Colossians 1:13-14 I am redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.

Eph 5:8 You are a child of the light.

I will...

I Corinthians 6:19-20 I will honor God with my body.

II Timothy 1:7 I will not fear but be strong, loving, and upright.

John 15:5 I will remain connected to Him.

John 15:16 I will bear fruit because he has chosen and appointed me to.

II Corinthians 5:18-20 I will share with others about my relationship with Jesus.

Ephesians 2:10 I will do what I was created to do, namely good works.

Philippians 4:13 I will depend on God for strength and not my own.

Heb 4:14-16 (Ephesians 3:12) I will confidently approach God because of my faith in Christ.

Galatians 5:1 I will live my life free from the slavery of sin.

I Cor 1:27-29 I will not boast in what God does through me but remain humble.

Colossians 3:12 I will strive to be kind, humble, meek, patience, and accepting of others.