

Identity

“Define yourself radically as one beloved by God. This is the true self. Every other identity is illusion”. Brennan Manning

What we think about ourselves can form our identity, our confidence, how we relate to others, and affect many aspects of our life. When we accept Jesus we are given a new identity - we are a new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

We don't just gain an improvement, or a 2nd attempt at a new identity, but we are given a new identity in Christ Jesus.

Many problems we can have with insecurities, anxieties, but also pride or religiosity can stem from not really knowing who we are. In not fully understanding or forgetting the truth of the new identity Jesus has bought us.

2 Peter 1:9 NLT⁹ But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.

Bourne Again

We have forgotten who we are in Christ (2 Peter 1:9). When we forget our identity, like Jason Bourne, we should be relentless until we know it again.

Bourne, one of the great action heroes of our day, is a highly trained agent — to understate it — capable of winning a fight with nothing more than a rolled up magazine or a ballpoint pen. He is armed with unrivalled skill and know-how for every situation he faces.

In the first Bourne film, he wakes up from a failed mission, not remembering who he is, but quickly realising all he is capable of doing. Bourne is determined to find out who he is. He doesn't seem to care that he can do things James Bond only dreams of doing; he wants to know who he is.

Identity Comes Before Activity

Herein lies the parable for the Christian life: **we are often more drawn to what we can do for Jesus, rather than who we are in Jesus. AMEN!**

In the book Sit Walk Stand, Watchman Nee explains how the Christian life starts with sitting, knowing where we are positioned with Jesus before we can start to walk out the life or stand against the schemes of the enemy.

“Only those who sit can stand. Our power for standing, as for walking, lies in our having first been made to sit together with Christ. The Christian's walk and warfare alike derive their strength from his position there. If he is not sitting before God he cannot hope to stand before the enemy.” — **Watchman Nee, Sit, Walk, Stand**

It was only when Jesus had finished His work that He sat, to sit is a position of rest, it is a position of inactivity of completeness. Jesus said at His death - it is finished.

As we are seated with Christ Jesus, it is a position of accepting that Jesus has already done it all. That our identity is now completely new and transformed in Him.

This whole area of what it means to be in Christ Jesus and Him to be in us is amazing and forms our identity as a follower of Jesus.

1. In Christ Jesus you were given grace before the world was created. “He gave us grace *in Christ Jesus before the ages began*” (2 Timothy 1:9).
2. In Christ Jesus you were redeemed and forgiven for all your sins. *In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses*” (Ephesians 1:7).
3. In Christ Jesus you have become a new creation and a child of God. “Therefore, if anyone is *in Christ*, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” (2 Corinthians 5:17). “*In Christ Jesus you are all children of God, through faith*” (Galatians 3:26).
4. In Christ Jesus you have been seated in the heavenly places “God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places *in Christ Jesus*” (Ephesians 2:6).

5. In Christ Jesus all the promises of God are Yes for you. *“All the promises of God find their Yes in Christ” (2 Corinthians 1:20).*
6. In Christ Jesus everything you really need will be supplied. *“My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).*
7. In Christ Jesus the peace of God will guard your heart and mind. *“The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7).*
8. In Christ Jesus you have eternal life. *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).*

If that’s not enough to convince you as to who God says you are when you are in Christ how about this! Turn in your bible to:

Ephesians 1:3-14 NIV ³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. ¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

According to [Ephesians 1](#), we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing; we have been chosen, adopted, redeemed, forgiven, grace-lavished and

unconditionally loved and accepted. We are pure, blameless and forgiven. We have received the hope of spending eternity with God. When we are in Christ, these aspects of our identity can never be altered by what we do.

Ending:

A question today, is have you accepted for yourself this new life, this new identity?

It is a simple matter of just saying yes to Jesus.

If you have said yes - How much time are you spending getting to know and accepting for yourself who you really are in Christ Jesus? How often are we declaring these words, speaking the life that these truths bring?

When you go into any challenging situation, when you start hearing the lies of the enemy, are you seeing yourself seated with Christ Jesus in the throne room of God?

It doesn’t matter how we feel, it is believing in faith the reality of who we are and where we are positioned.

When I get tempted to believe a lie, when I get tempted to step into something I know is wrong, when I get tempted to place my trust and identity in something or someone other than God.

If I realise I am not only standing here but also am seated in the throne room of God, how would that affect my confidence in God? My choices and my dependency on God?

Let’s pray!